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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 287

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KERALA RAPE CASE

Court denies bail to MLA; Cong. expels him

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Postal dept. moots proxy address framework

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Experts discuss ways to make cities responsive

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PINK-BALL TEST

Root and Starc shine on the opening day

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NEARBY

Cabinet approves Bill to prevent hate speech

BENGALURU
The State Cabinet has approved the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, to curb, prevent, dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and hate crimes.
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Policeman accused of stealing cash

BENGALURU
A head constable of a Cyber Crime police station has been accused of stealing ₹11 lakh belonging to a suspect during an interrogation inside the City Police Headquarters. » PAGE 4

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

SC tells States to replace distressed BLOs for SIR

Court says States could deploy more staff for work, reported distress of BLOs cannot 'hamper' exercise; it stresses State employees as BLOs have obligation to perform assigned statutory duties

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday put the onus entirely on State governments to substitute employees unable to bear the work pressure of a booth-level officer (BLO), while refusing to let the reported distress of the workforce "hamper" a tightly wound second phase of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission across nine States and three Union Territories.

The States could also choose to depute additional employees to strengthen the BLO ranks and reduce their work stress, it said.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi emphasised that State employees recruited as BLOs had an obligation to perform the statutory duties assigned to them – in this case distributing enumeration forms to electors as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) process.

> Whenever an employee has any individual, specific reasons for seeking exemption from the assigned duties, the competent authority, the State government, may consider such requests on a case to case basis and replace such persons
>
> **SUPREME COURT**

The court said it was for the State governments to "obviate the hardships" of BLOs. "Whenever an employee has any individual, specific reasons for seeking exemption from the assigned duties, the competent authority, the State government, may consider such requests on a case-to-case basis and replace such persons," it directed.

The Bench underscored that States were obliged to provide the Election Commission (EC) with the requisite human resources to complete the SIR within the specified deadline.

The court's unflinching response came on a plea that BLOs were unable to meet the overwhelming targets set by the EC, collapsing under pressure or even choosing to take their own lives.

The EC, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, said claims of BLOs wilting under work pressure were "works of imagination". He submitted that each polling booth was limited to 1,200 electors under the EC's rationalisation scheme. The BLO assigned to a booth had 37 days, from November 4 to December 11, to complete the enumeration work.

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India, Russia Ministers reaffirm defence ties

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov co-chaired the 22nd session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation here on Thursday.

Both sides reiterated that the bilateral partnership is rooted in deep mutual trust, shared principles, and long-standing respect, the Ministry of Defence said. The meeting comes ahead of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Modi welcomed Mr. Putin upon his arrival at the Air Force Station Palam on Thursday evening.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 12

IndiGo cancels 550 flights, airports see continued turmoil

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Chaos persisted at airports across the country as IndiGo's flight delays stretched into Thursday, forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights. The disruption hit other carriers, which were forced to cancel some flights as IndiGo aircraft occupied parking bays amid lack of available crew.

According to PTI, IndiGo cancelled over 550 domestic and international flights. Major airports affected included Mumbai (85 flights), Bengaluru (73), Hyderabad (68), Chennai (31), and Delhi (30). At Hyderabad airport, passengers raised slogans.

Meanwhile, top IndiGo officials met Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and Faiz Kidwai, head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The airline informed them that it would curtail flights from December 8 to minimise flight disruptions, and delays and cancellations will continue for the next two to three days, a DGCA statement said.

IndiGo has sought exemption from implementing the norms on reduced night flying hours until February 10.

Passengers waiting in queue at IndiGo counter at Bengaluru airport on Thursday. PTI

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Kohli — the embodiment of passion, drive and desire

Watching him bat in the last six weeks or so, few would guess that he is retired internationally from two of the three formats. In his last three outings in 50-over cricket, he has made an unbeaten half-century and two blazing hundreds

R. RAGU

R. Kaushik
VISAKHAPATNAM

The dictionary definition of a machine is 'a piece of equipment with moving parts that is designed to do a particular job. It usually needs electricity, gas, steam etc. in order to work.'

Sometimes conveniently, mostly lazily and almost out of compulsion, we have tended to label Virat Kohli as a run-machine. How much further from the truth can we be?

Does Kohli need electricity or gas or steam? Really? Is he a lifeless, inanimate piece of equipment designed to do a particular job?

Virat Kohli is the living embodiment of passion. Of commitment and drive and desire, of the need to keep pushing the boundaries, to be the best version of himself day after day. He is his best judge and his worst critic. Yes, because he is as human as the rest of us, he is also affected by criticism, by censure, by what he and others of his ilk often refer to as 'outside noise'. But in his heart of hearts, he is governed by what he thinks of himself, how he rates himself. 'Outside noise', be it approbation or otherwise, will affect his psyche, but not as much as his own reading of whether he is living up to the lofty standards he has set for himself over the last 17 years as an international cricketer.

Watching Kohli bat in the last six weeks or so, few would guess that he is retired internationally from two of the three formats. That, in a lot of ways, he is a part-time cricketer - no disrespect meant. In his last three outings in 50-over cricket, the only format in which he represents the country these days, he has made an unbeaten half-century and two blazing hundreds. On Wednesday when he brought up a 53rd ton, off a mere 90 deliveries without seemingly hitting a shot in anger, it marked a staggering 11th time he had smashed ODI centuries in successive innings.

When Kohli scored his 53rd ODI century, it marked a staggering 11th time he had smashed centuries in successive innings in the 50-over format

He has been an unstoppable force against the South Africans. In Ranchi and Raipur, he has entertained and enthralled

Kohli is at that stage of his career where every run, forget about every three-figure knock, he conjures is a milestone of sorts, an extension of his own record. Before the three-match series against South Africa, he already boasted the most three-figure knocks in the history of the One-Day game, a massive 51. Kohli had gone past the great Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries during India's stirring charge to the final of the 50-over home World Cup two years back. In Dubai against Pakistan in the Champions Trophy league fixture in February, he drew abreast of Tendulkar for the most international centuries (51) in a single format. Now, after ODI hundred Nos. 52 and 53 on Sunday and Wednesday respectively, he has pulled further away from the rest; with 84 centuries across the three formats, he has only Tendulkar (100) ahead of him in the overall hundred-hitting stakes. It's more than likely, given he only plays one format and 50-over matches don't come along as frequently as the other two versions, that he will end up behind Tendulkar whenever he hangs up his boots, but that's unlikely to occupy his mind space one bit.

A roller-coaster ride

It's been a turbulent, tumultuous last 12 months for the 37-year-old from Delhi. An unbeaten second-innings century in a winning cause in Perth last November hinted at Kohli rekindling his romance with Australia, but his series unravelled spectacularly thereafter as an old failing – his vulnerability to balls in the corridor to which his bat appeared magnetically attracted – came back to haunt him. Kohli was out caught behind the wickets, either by the wicketkeeper or in the slip cordon, all eight times in Australia; if he was 31 rather than 36, he might have knuckled down to iron out that crease, like he had done after the England tour of 2014 when 10 Test innings brought him only 134 runs. But the passage of time and the changing of guard at the top of the Indian management tree, with Gautam Gambhir coming in as head coach to replace Rahul Dravid, potentially drove Kohli to retirement from Tests in May.

No one knew when he was pouched at second slip for six by Steve Smith pushing away from his body off the back foot against Scott Boland at the Sydney Cricket Ground on January 4 that it would be Kohli's last Test innings. Perhaps Kohli himself wasn't sure at the time, and there appeared no indication of what was going through his mind when he played two stunning hands in the Champions Trophy, following up his 100 not out against Pakistan with a pivotal 84 in the successful semifinal chase against old nemesis Australia. His travails Down Under seemed behind him and he seemed to be enjoying being in the middle as much as he always had, which was why it came as a massive surprise when he walked away into the Test sunset a week after his old pal Rohit Sharma had pulled the plug on his five-day career.

Ro-Ko a package deal

Kohli and Rohit's cricketing journeys have run parallel for 17 years now. Rohit was the first to debut, in June 2007 in Ireland on a limited-overs sojourn; it wasn't until 14 months later that Kohli earned his first India cap, in an ODI series in Sri Lanka. Kohli went on to carve a magnificent path in Test cricket, especially during a golden period from the end of 2014 to the end of 2019, while Rohit established himself as arguably the greatest limited-overs batter of all time, backed up by an unmatched three double hundreds in ODIs and five international centurions in the 20-over iteration.

Both of them called it quits from the 20-over game at the highest level following India's title charge in Bridgetown in June last year. There was, therefore, a certain added poignancy to them retiring from Test cricket within a week of each other, leaving them to fly the flag only in the 50-over game where both are behemoths bar none.

In ways unimaginable even a couple of years back, they are now inextricably intertwined, almost one soul in two bodies. They have been made a package deal by their fans; Kohli is a touch ahead in the popularity stakes but Rohit is well-liked and respected, as much for moulding the next generation of superstars as his propensity to lead from the front and set the example that others have striven to emulate.

When they were picked for a three-match series in Australia in October, there was massive interest. Were they in the plans for the 2027 50-over World Cup? Oh, never mind if it is two years away. Are they on notice? On probation? Will they be judged on every failure while every success is taken for granted?

It certainly appeared so, more for Kohli than Rohit, when he failed to trouble the scorers in the first two games in Australia, in Perth and then Adelaide. The whispers were beginning to pick up momentum when he produced a sublime unbeaten 74, playing second fiddle to centurion Rohit in another of their three-figure alliances (20 at the last count).

In the last week, it has looked as if Kohli hasn't been away at all. The two failures in Australia were not due to lack of preparation, but no amount of work in the nets can compensate for actual match-play. The Perth game on October 19 was Kohli's first competitive hit since the final of the IPL 2025 on June 3. Even the most gifted, intense and unyielding competitor can't buck such odds.

Better off for the time spent in the crease in Sydney, Kohli has been an unstoppable force against the South Africans. In Ranchi and then Raipur, he entertained and enthralled; in the first game, he put on a six-hitting exhibition, smashing seven of them on his way to a 120-ball 135. In Raipur on Wednesday, vintage Kohli was back in business. His hundred came off a mere 90 deliveries, yet this was no boundary-laden blitzkrieg. Seven fours and two sixes meant nine deliveries brought him 40 runs; the other 60 still came off just 81 balls and were eked out through excellent running between the wickets.

Kohli has always been both a terrific judge of a run and outstanding between the sticks. The tempestuous, excitable version would expect others to keep pace with him which, unless one was Mahendra Singh Dhoni, was well nigh impossible. As he matured, Kohli began to run at his partners' pace. He now finds himself in a team where apart from Rohit, everyone else is younger, several considerably so. Yet, it can be said with complete confidence that Kohli will outpace every single one of them comfortably.

After Saturday's final ODI against Temba Bavuma's side in Visakhapatnam, India will play three 50-over games against New Zealand at home in the middle of January. In that gap, Kohli will play for Delhi in the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy while India and South Africa fine-tune their preparations for the T20 World Cup with a five-match shortest-format showdown.

After the Kiwi ODIs, the focus will shift to 20-over cricket in the form of the World Cup, to be followed by Season 19 of the IPL. Kohli will watch the former on television and hope to help his side, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, mount a successful title defence in the latter. He will, therefore, be game-ready when the team travels to England, where he now resides on a semi-permanent basis, in mid-July for three 50-over outings.

Who knows what after that. You don't need to know Kohli intimately to figure out that he won't overstay his welcome. If he feels the fire is dimming, the intensity is fading and the desire drops even a touch, he will instantly pull the plug on his career. Whether that is in 2026, 2027 or beyond shouldn't really be our concern. All we can do is enjoy the Kohli magic, celebrate a generational genius and not get caught up in the 'outside noise' that we ourselves are generating.

And yes, can we also please stop referring to him as a run-machine?

THE GIST

- Kohli is at that stage of his career where his three-figure knocks are an extension of his own record. He had already gone past the great Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries in the 50-over format. With ODI hundred Nos. 52 and 53 in the last week, his total adds up to 84 tons across three formats, 16 less than Tendulkar
- The 37-year-old, who now plays only one out of the three formats, has had a tumultuous last 12 months — from calling it a day in the longest format and two failures in Australia in October to now hitting back-to-back centuries against South Africa in the One-Dayers
- After Saturday's final ODI against the Proteas, Kohli will feature for Delhi in the Vijay Hazare Trophy before the three 50-over games against the Kiwis in January. Then comes IPL 2026. When Kohli pulls the plug on his glorious career is entirely up to him. But till he is around, it is time to enjoy and celebrate the magic he casts with his batting

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Passengers waiting in queue at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

99 IndiGo flights cancelled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With IndiGo cancelling several flights for the third consecutive day, chaos prevailed at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Thursday as several agitated passengers were seen arguing with airline staff and security personnel.

On Thursday, 99 IndiGo flights were cancelled which included 54 arrivals and 45 departures.

Many videos were doing rounds with angry passengers arguing with airline staff and security personnel over cancellation of flights and repeated delays.

Widespread disruptions

Many passengers, who had reached the airport hoping that the airline would restore normal operations following widespread disruptions over the last few days, were disappointed as the airline had cancelled flights on many routes.

Around 9 a.m., 73 flights, including 41 arrivals and 32 departures, were called due to operational reasons. Flights on many routes were also delayed which led to heated arguments between the passengers and airline staff.

Several passengers complained that their travel schedules had gone awry due to the cancellation of flights. They said that airline staff were clueless about the schedules and that there was no prior communication from the airline about the cancellation.

'Clueless'

"They were clueless about what was happening. Many of us have been waiting since morning hoping that flight services would be restored," said a passenger.

Among those whose flight was repeatedly rescheduled was Abhay Upadhyay, president of Forum For People's Collective Efforts, whose flight to Kolkata was originally scheduled to depart at 4.30 a.m., however it was rescheduled at 6.10 which too got cancelled, and he was later accommodated in a flight at 5 p.m.

On Wednesday, 62 flights were cancelled and a day earlier 20 flights were cancelled at the airport.

Cabinet approves short tunnel-flyover from Hebbal Junction to Mehkri Circle

The project involves building a three-lane short transitory length twin tunnel from Hebbal Junction to veterinary university and an elevated corridor from the varsity to Mehkri Circle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday gave administrative approval for a short tunnel-elevated corridor between Hebbal Junction and Mehkri Circle.

The project is estimated to cost ₹2,215 crore. It is different from the Hebbal-Silk Board (16.75 km) twin tunnel project for which tenders are under way. In fact, this project will force changes in the twin tunnel project as well.

It may be recalled that the earlier Congress government proposed to build a steel flyover to decongest traffic on Ballari Road, but had to drop it owing to strong opposition from civic groups.

The project was suggested by the Bengaluru Traffic Police as the long twin tunnel project will not allow two-wheelers and autorickshaws and therefore will not help ease traffic congestion in areas like Ganganagar, Sanjaynagar, and R.T. Nagar, documents showed.

The project would solve local area traffic issues, sources said. It involves building a three-lane short transitory length twin tunnel from Hebbal Junction to Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries University (KVAFSU) for 2.27 km and an elevated corridor from the KVAFSU to Mehkri Circle. A senior UDD official said that Mehkri Circle would be developed into a rotary interchange. "The flyover from the KVAFSU will be just one of the flyovers that will end at Mehkri Circle. We are planning other flyovers which will come and converge at the circle. So we are developing the key junction into a rotary interchange," the official said.

It may be recalled that the earlier Congress government proposed to build a steel flyover to decongest traffic on Ballari Road, but had to drop it owing to strong opposition from civic groups.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

The project, which is estimated to cost ₹2,215 crore, will be handled by Bangalore Development Authority. The cost will be borne by the agency

This has now shifted the planned up-ramp and down-ramps to the Hebbal-Silk Board twin tunnel project from the Mehkri Circle. The documents showed the project would be handled by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), and the cost would also be borne by the agency through its own resources.

Earlier estimates by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) pegged the project cost at ₹1,325 crore.

That has now ballooned to ₹2,215 crore. The B-SMILE had only planned for a tunnel and did not include the flyover, the sources said.

Only unauthorised cab operators opposing overstaying fee: BIAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which will introduce a new lane segregation system at the pick-up zone in front of the airport's two terminals on December 8, has defended its decision amid reports that cab drivers were against this move.

Support

BIAL Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Hari Marar on Thursday said that it has the support of all stakeholders, including all the nine licensed cab operators at the airport.

"At KIA, the only area where the experience is not so great is on the kerbside. One of the reasons for this is because a large number of people operate in that area in an undisciplined manner. People come, park their cars there for extended periods of time. We always wanted to implement something like this (lane segregation system) where we allow people to come in freely, park there, get out and load their bags without any problems. But they should not overstay. They are free to stay for eight months, but beyond that they need to move on, otherwise they will have to pay a fee," Mr. Marar said.

Eight minutes

According to the BIAL, the airport will give eight minutes of free use of the zone for all the users beyond which ₹150 will be charged for overstay from 8 minutes to 13 minutes, and ₹300 for 13minutes to 18 minutes. Any vehicle overstaying beyond 18 minutes will be towed to the nearest police station, and applicable fines and towing charges will be levied.

Mr. Marar said that the cab drivers who are legally authorised to operate will not oppose the new rules.

'Right move'

"It is those who are not operating legally are raising this question. We have support from every single stakeholder that this is the right move and we have nine licensed cab operators and they support us," he said.

Vokkaligara Sangha (R.)
B.B Road, Chikkaballapur -562101.

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President / General Secretary and Directors
Vokkaligara Sangha (R.) Chikkaballapura -562101.

KIA gets Mobility Assist to ease movement of passengers requiring additional care

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced Mobility Assist which is India's first advanced assistive support system designed to enable safe and seamless boarding and disembarking for passengers with reduced mobility, including children and those requiring additional care.

This equipment has been donated by B.S. Ajaikumar, ounder & Executive Chairman of Healthcare Global Enterprises (HCG), in memory of his son, Adarsh Ajaikumar.

Dr. Ajaikumar said Adarsh, who lived with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and used an electric wheelchair, experienced the physical discomfort and emotional strain caused by inadequate transfer support at airports. That deeply personal experience became the inspiration for this initiative, now supporting the way passengers with reduced mobility travel at KIA. The Mobility Assist transforms the transfer experience by mechanically assisting children and passengers with reduced mobility directly from their wheelchair during boarding, deplaning, or intra-terminal movement. It reduces physical strain, minimises risk, and ensures a more comfortable experience for both passengers and staff.

The Mobility Assist facility for passengers with reduced mobility was launched at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

This service will be available upon request through Airline Coordination ensuring passengers with reduced mobility receive personalised, end-to-end support tailored to their needs.

"The contribution is deeply personal for us. During our travels, Adarsh endured great discomfort due to the lack of appropriate support equipment. Yet, he chose to turn that pain into purpose. The Mobility Assist represents his wish to help others like him travel with ease, and comfort. We hope this becomes a model that airports across India can adopt," Dr. Ajaikumar said.

Couple arrested on charge of smuggling ₹18.6 crore worth hydro ganja from Bangkok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Bengaluru-based couple, working as mules for an international drug syndicate, managed to smuggle 18 kg of hydro ganja worth ₹18.6 crore into the city through Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) by concealing the contraband in food packets inside their backpacks.

They were arrested hours later by the Mahalakshmi Layout police while waiting to deliver the consignment to their handler on November 30. The case has highlighted the gaps at Customs check at the KIA. The accused have been identified as Shafiuddin Sheikh, a car mechanic, and his wife Sara Simran, residents of Kammanahalli. According to investigators, the couple had travelled to Bangkok on tourist visas and returned with the narcotic drugs.

No criminal record

A police officer said the couple were offered free travel, accommodation, and additional payment to smuggle the drugs. The contraband was concealed in nine food packets, each weighing around two kg. "They had no criminal record, which is one of the primary reasons they were chosen as mules," the officer added. What has particularly alarmed investigators was how the duo managed to evade stringent checks by the Customs officials, who were operating under enhanced security protocols in the wake of increased drug smuggling incidents ahead of New Year festivities. The Customs officers have been following a detailed set of guidelines on profiling and screening passengers, and on paper, the couple's background fit the parameters. However, acting on credible intelligence, the police tracked the couple soon after their arrival and intercepted them before the consignment was handed over to local contacts. A team led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Mary Shailaja seized two mobile phones from the accused. They have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Ramaiah Evolute Start-up Award 2025 ceremony held at the Ramaiah Institute of Technology campus

At the Ramaiah Evolute Start-up Award 2025 ceremony in Bengaluru, Krishnakumar Natarajan of Mela Ventures urged start-ups to prioritize solving real-world problems, stressing that meaningful innovation naturally drives growth. Giandomenico Milano, Italy's Consul in Bengaluru, praised the city's global start-up ecosystem and encouraged founders to learn from success stories like Zepto while scaling from local to global markets. Co-founder Dr. Samarth Nagabhushan noted that Ramaiah Evolute has supported impactful ventures since 2021, selecting 22 companies from 500 applications this year and awarding grants of about ₹2 crore, with plans to expand support. The event, attended by several dignitaries, also featured Dr. M. R. Seetharam, who reaffirmed the foundation's commitment to empowering start-ups through technology-driven growth.

8th Convocation held at Presidency University

Presidency University held its 8th Convocation on 29 November 2026, celebrating a decade of academic excellence. The event, led by Chancellor Dr. Nissar Ahmed and Founder Trustee Mrs. Kauser Nissar Ahmed, featured entrepreneur Ronnie Screwvala as Chief Guest and journalist Dilip Thakore as Guest of Honour. A total of 4,953 graduates—including undergraduates, postgraduates, PhD scholars, and gold medalists—were honored. Screwvala urged students to pursue entrepreneurship and embrace risk, while Thakore emphasized developing future-ready skills. Dr. S. J. Thiruvengadam presented the annual report, and Dr. Sameena Noor Ahmed Panali led the academic procession, with senior leaders of the Presidency Group also present.

Inauguration of BGS Utsav and Founder's Day

The BGS Utsav and Founder's Day celebrations paid tribute to Balagangadharanatha Swamiji, with pontiffs, leaders, and artists praising his transformative impact on education, healthcare, and food service programmes like Akshara Dasoha and Anna Dasoha. Speakers highlighted his humility, visionary leadership, and commitment to community welfare. The event featured prominent dignitaries including Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji, Sri Siddalinga Mahaswamiji, Dr. Prakashnath Swamiji, Union Ministers H. D. Kumaraswamy and Shobha Karandlaje, and several film personalities. BGS Seva Ratna Awards were presented to distinguished contributors from BGS institutions. Leaders commended the Trust's role in providing quality education to economically weaker families and noted that Balagangadharanatha Swamiji's far-reaching vision continues to benefit lakhs of students through its ongoing educational and social initiatives.

Christ special school celebrates International Day of persons with Disabilities with Chris Fest 2025-26

Christ Special School celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by hosting the Bangalore Special School Championship - CHRIS FEST 2025-26, bringing together 360 children with disabilities, 150 staff, and 21 special schools. Inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Dr. Viju P. D. and guided by Rev. Fr. Nijo Jose CMI, the event featured sports and cultural competitions that highlighted the talents and confidence of the children. Dignitaries including Shri Das Suryavamshi, Mr. Madan Kumar, and Smt. Chitra Shenoy praised the educators and caregivers for their transformative work. Endeavour Extended Learning Services won the Overall Championship Trophy. The fest was widely appreciated for its inclusive spirit, reaffirming the school's commitment to empowering children with disabilities through participation and community support.

Inauguration programme at Ghousia College of Engineering, Ramanagara

Ghousia College of Engineering, Ramanagara, inaugurated its First Year BE, BBA, and BCA classes along with the induction programme on 15 September 2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Manjunatha C.R., District Environmental Officer, and presided over by Janab Umar Ismail Khan, Honorary Secretary of the Ghousia Industrial and Engineering Trust. Principal Dr. N.S. Kumar, Administrative Officer Prof. Aejaz Ahamed K.R, and other faculty members were present. Welcome address was by Dr. Saifulla Khan, coordination by Mr. Zamar Pasha, and a vote of thanks by Dr. Jyothi H.R. The Chief Guest urged students to uphold ethics, respect parents and teachers, avoid harmful habits, gain practical knowledge, and prepare for competitive exams, while the Honorary Secretary encouraged active participation in extracurricular activities.

Mounting concern: Patients receiving lifesaving dialysis treatment in the nephrology ward. Across Telangana, doctors are battling increasing number of kidney failures. H. VIBHU

What is causing a surge in cases of kidney failure in Telangana?

While a scientific link is yet to be established, doctors are raising concerns about the increasing number of patients who are consuming alternative medicines with no prescriptions, alongside the widespread problem of quackery; they call for clamp down on all illegal and unsafe practices

Siddharth Kumar Singh

Across Telangana, doctors are battling a problem that is becoming increasingly common: kidney failure. These patients are young, many are the breadwinners of their families, and most do not have the usual risk factors of chronic kidney disease (CKD), which are diabetes and hypertension. Then why are their kidneys failing?

Even as researchers continue to examine the drivers of this pattern and nephrologists struggle to save patients, a paper published last year, may perhaps point to one of possible answer: the growing number of patients consuming self-prescribed alternative medicines. While the link has not yet been scientifically established, this is a line of inquiry researchers now want to pursue. It may be noted that certain alternative medicines have been implicated in liver injuries in India.

The study, led by nephrologists from Osmania General Hospital and Apollo Hospitals, examined 75 patients and was published in the *Indian Journal of Nephrology* in August 2024. Conducted between March 2021 and November 2022 at Osmania General Hospital, it was a single-centre, prospective observational study documenting the clinical and epidemiological profile of patients with chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology in Telangana and assessing their kidney histology.

Among the 75 patients, the mean age was 41.7 years and 68% were men. A majority, amounting to 77.3%, relied on groundwater as their primary drinking water source. 40% reported having used alternative medicine in the past and 46.6% underwent kidney biopsies as part of the evaluation.

> Patients must consult only licensed experts and follow prescriptions that clearly mention the name of the medicine along with the credentials of the practitioner
>
> **G. SRINIVAS**
> Vice-Chairman, Telangana Medical Council

What the study found

Manisha Sahay, professor and head of the nephrology department at Osmania General Hospital and one of the authors of the study, said many patients who report using alternative medicine had taken these substances without medical guidance.

"Patients often rely on suggestions from friends or quacks who do not hold any degree in any recognised system of medicine. In most instances, they do not have a prescription and consume these products in the form of powders, liquids, leaves or tablets, often supplied in unnamed bottles."

Dr. Sahay further added that even when patients mention alternative medicine use, they rarely bring samples for analysis, making it difficult to establish a clear link between the substances consumed and the kidney damage observed. Although 40% of those studied reported past use, the absence of traceable samples meant the cause and effect relationship cannot yet be established, but the team is pursuing this line of research.

The histological analysis in the study revealed that 44% of the patients had global glomerulosclerosis, which indicates that more than half of the kidney's filtering units were scarred and non-functional.

No traditional risk factors

Dr. Sahay said the main finding was that patients with chronic kidney disease who fit the phenotype for chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology, as defined in known hotspots elsewhere, are not uncommon in Telangana. She said the cases are not confined to people with traditional risk factors such as agricultural work and that this is the first report documenting the presence of such cases in the State.

Most participants were from Hyderabad, accounting for 42.7%, followed by 10% from Rangareddy district. About one-third, or 33%, had hyperuricemia, which refers to elevated uric acid levels in the blood. Of the patients, 40% had already reached stage five chronic kidney disease at the time of diagnosis, and seven patients, representing 9.3%, required renal replacement therapy such as dialysis when they were evaluated.

While more research is needed across the State to establish definitive links, this combined with the deep-rooted menace of quackery in the State has now led to calls by medical professionals to both clamp down on all illegal and unsafe medical practices.

G. Srinivas, Vice-Chairman of the Telangana Medical Council (TGMC), said that unqualified practitioners prescribing unregulated herbal or alternative medicines pose a serious risk to patients' kidney health. "Many of these substances are given without any knowledge of dosage, strength or side effects. We do not know how much of these medicines people are consuming, what the mechanism of action is, how they are metabolised in the liver or kidneys, or what enzymes are involved. We also do not know how these substances interact with the medicines that patients may already be taking for conditions like hypertension or diabetes," he said.

According to him, such interactions can lead either to excessively rapid metabolism, which causes the drug to be cleared too quickly, or to slow metabolism, which results in the accumulation of the substance in the blood. "Slow metabolism causes the drug to build up in the body and this can damage internal organs, including the liver, kidneys and even the brain.

He added that irrational prescribing by quacks is a known contributor to kidney failure in peripheral and rural areas. "In many places, unqualified practitioners give combinations like dexamethasone and diclofenac sodium as injections for quick pain relief. These drugs directly damage the nephrons and can lead to kidney failure," he said.

"Patients must consult only licensed experts and follow prescriptions that clearly mention the name of the medicine along with the credentials of the practitioner," said Dr. Sahay.
(siddharth.kumar@thehindu.co.in)

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vectors are living organisms that can transmit infectious pathogens between humans, or from animals to humans. Can you match the vector with the disease?

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

_____ are the intermediate hosts for the parasitic flatworm that causes schistosomiasis (bilharzia). Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

Sandflies carry this parasititic protozoa found in tropical and subtropical areas, which in humans can cause severe skin ulcers or infection of internal organs that can be fatal.
Name the parasite, which gives its name to the disease it causes.

QUESTION 3

Triatomine bugs transmit Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis) by biting a person and defecating near the bite. These bugs have a nickname, based on where they bite people. What is it?

QUESTION 4

_____is a group of diseases caused by a bacteria called *Rickettsiaprowazekii,* spread through the feces of vectors such as lice, fleas, and mites. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

We all know that the anopheles mosquito is the vector that causes lymphatic filariasis and malaria, both of which are parasitic infections. It also causes a viral infection, a neglected disease. name this tongue-twisting disease.

This disease is also called 'rabbit fever'. Symptoms may include fever, skin ulcers, and enlarged lymph nodes. It was named after the area in which it was discovered in the United States, in the 1900s. Identify the disease. AFP

Answers to previous edition's quiz:
1. What does mm HG stand for? **Ans: Millimeters of mercury** 2. Systolic is the pressure when the heart _____ and diastolic is the pressure when the heart is _____. **Ans: beats or contracts and at rest, between beats** 3. True or False: Your heart beats about 1,00,000 times a day. **Ans: True** 4. What happens to the arteries when you have uncontrolled hypertension? **Ans: They narrow and harden** 5. Approximately how many liters of blood does you heart pump? **Ans: About five litres** 6. What is the condition low bp known as? **Ans: Hypotension** 7. True or False: Veins carry oxygenated blood from the heart to various parts of the body. **Ans: False** 8. Easiest way to help lower bp is to remove or reduce this ingredient from foods? **Ans: Salt** visual: What is its medical name of the device? **Ans: Sphygmomanometer**

A worrying pattern of HIV transmission in children

Cause for concern: HIV can pass from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, during delivery or through breastfeeding. ISTOCKPHOTO

Amol Jaybhaye

Mother to child transmission of HIV remains one of the major challenges in the effort to eliminate HIV in children.

HIV can pass from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, during delivery or through breastfeeding. Over the years, early antenatal HIV testing, treatment for pregnant women living with HIV and medicines for newborns have reduced transmission rates across many regions. However, an important concern continues to appear in clinical practice. Some babies are still diagnosed with HIV even though their mothers tested negative during pregnancy. This worrying pattern, often called the silent transmission gap, highlights key gaps in testing, timing and follow-up care.

Many women test negative in early pregnancy, but may acquire HIV later. If a person becomes newly infected during pregnancy, her viral load is often very high, which greatly increases the chance of passing the virus to the baby. A single test at the start of pregnancy may therefore miss new infections that happen later.

After a new infection, there is a also a 'window period' – an interval of time during which standard screening tests may not detect HIV even though the virus is present. During this time, the chance of transmitting HIV is high. This means a pregnant woman may test negative despite recently acquiring the infection.

Usually, only one HIV test is recommended during the early stages of pregnancy. Hence, without repeated

Some babies are still diagnosed with HIV even though their mothers tested negative during pregnancy. This worrying pattern is often called the silent transmission gap

testing in the later stages of pregnancy and during breastfeeding, some new infections have a high chance of being undetected. This creates a missed opportunity for early treatment and prevention.

The risk of transmission is especially high if the mother acquires HIV during late pregnancy, delivery or the breastfeeding period. Transmission can happen before birth, during birth or after birth through breast milk.

What can be done?

To close this silent gap, the following steps are important:

For pregnant women: Repeat HIV testing in the later months of pregnancy, testing again at the time of delivery and testing during breastfeeding can help to check for the infection. Additional testing should be carried out for women with recent exposure or symptoms.

For infants: Early virologic testing soon after birth and repeat follow-up testing if needed can go a long way.
Prompt treatment must begin in case of a positive result.

Closing the gap

The occurrence of HIV in babies whose mothers test negative during pregnancy, indicates a significant gap in prevention efforts. This gap is not due to treatment failures in known HIV positive mothers, but mainly due to the occurrence of new maternal infections, the window period and a lack of repeat testing.

A few basic steps such as enforcing repeated testing regulations, improving close follow-ups especially during pregnancy and breastfeeding and ensuring early infant testing will go a long way toward ensuring that essential steps are taken to protect the newborns. Closing this silent transmission gap is crucial as part of the global effort to eliminate HIV in children.

(Dr. Amol Jaybhaye is consultant - paediatric infectious diseases, Narayana Health SRCC Children's Hospital, Mumbai. Info.Srcc@narayanahealth.org)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of enumeration forms digitised so far in West Bengal

98.84 In per cent. West Bengal occupied the fourth spot among States/Union Territories in terms of digitisation of enumeration forms, trailing behind Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and Goa, which recorded 100, 99.81 and 99.16%, respectively. PTI

Number of filings for unemployment benefits in the U.S.

1.91 in lakh. Applications for unemployment aid are viewed as a proxy for layoffs and are close to a real-time indicator of the health of the job market. The four-week average of claims, which evens out some of the week-to-week volatility, fell by 9,500 to 2,14,750. PTI

Cashless treatment requests of victims rejected since 2024

20 In per cent. Under the Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025, the victims are entitled to cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh per victim per accident for a maximum period of seven days from the date of the accident and is applicable to all road accidents. PTI

The value of heroin seized in the Rajasthan trafficking case

15 In ₹ crore. Rajasthan Police arrested two alleged traffickers in Hanumangarh and seized heroin worth around ₹15 crore, along with two China-made pistols and 14 cartridges. The accused, travelling in a Haryana registered SUV, were caught late Wednesday near Rohi Nagarana. PTI

Female primary teachers per 100 male teachers in Delhi

415 Delhi recorded 415 female primary teachers for every 100 male teachers in 2024-25, reflecting a rising inclination among women towards teaching, according to the Delhi government's Women and Men in Delhi-2025 report. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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China's story of rural revitalisation

As China prepares to enter into its 15th five-year plan, considered to be the 'consolidation and full implementation' period of the goal to realise 'socialist modernisation' by 2035, the efforts taken up by the administration for poverty alleviation and rural revitalisation are showing results

WORLD INSIGHT

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

Chinese President Xi Jinping, while visiting Fuping County of Hebei Province in his first year as general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, had noted that eradication of poverty and improving people's livelihoods are essential requirements of socialism. He had called for close attention to people in 'straitened circumstances', noting that "with confidence, barren clay can be turned into gold". The people of the Xichou county in Yunnan province, which was earlier a deserted rocky area, calls this confidence to turn clay into gold the 'Xichou spirit', taking pride over their accomplishment in regional development, where they broke down rocks with their bare hands, over the years, to bring in greenery and improve living conditions.

A stark divide?

China is a land of dichotomy. The country run by the CPC under principles of 'socialism with Chinese characteristics' has embraced market economy and state-led capitalism, which can be seen in the urban landscape of the country with its sprawling skyscrapers and brands, both foreign and local, competing for consumers. While urban China, with its postmodern skyline of Shanghai and vintage eloquence of Beijing, sprints ahead in terms of development and modernisation to make up the core of the country's economy, its countryside is a quiet but strong testament to Chinese socialism. As China prepares to enter into its 15th five-year plan, considered to be the "consolidation and full implementation" period of the goal to realise 'socialist modernisation' by 2035, the efforts taken up by the administration for poverty alleviation and rural revitalisation are showing results.

In China, one can see a regional divide in terms of development and modernisation, with the eastern provinces and cities being on par with global business hubs and tourist attractions alike while central and western provinces lag behind. Provinces like Guangdong (with special economic zones in Shenzhen and Zhuhai which directly benefitted from the reforms in the late 1970s), Guanxi, and provincial-level cities like Beijing and Shanghai are popular destinations for businesses and tourists; its facilities and attractions providing opportunities for both. But if one moves into the heart of the country, the landscape begins to change.

The progress of poverty programs

In Sichuan, home of the giant pandas located near the heart of China, and Yunnan bordering Vietnam and Myanmar, one can see long, winding roads leading to scattered towns and counties. These towns are on an entirely different plane of existence when compared to Shenzhen or Shanghai. Adorned with 'lush mountains and lucid waters', which, in the words of Mr. Xi, is the richest asset of a country, the calm and slow-paced life in these towns makes up the heart of China.

While the Chinese government stressed on modernisation and development during the decades following the opening up of its economy under former President Deng Xiaoping, poverty alleviation had also received its fair share of attention. Special poverty-relief institutions were set up across the country in 1986 to determine poor counties, and draw up criteria for poverty alleviation measures. A total of 273 counties were initially listed as State-level impoverished counties, which later rose to 328 in 1988. A 'seven-year programme for lifting 80 million people out of poverty' was initiated in 1994. This was followed by the 'outline for development-oriented poverty alleviation for China's rural areas' in 2001. The outline noted that while the number of existing State-level impoverished counties in developed coastal areas in the east had reduced to zero, there was an increase in impoverished counties in the central and western areas. Between 2001 and 2010, poverty headcount ratio dropped to 3.8% from 10.2% while per capita net income of farmers in key counties rose by an average of 7.6%.

For rural towns and counties, like Malipo and Jinping in Yunnan and Panzhihua in Sichuan, which are mountainous areas isolated from the provincial capitals, development has had to take the long road. However, they show results of heavy investments in both accessibility and sustainability. Windmills propped up on high hill-tops which appear to be churning the clouds are a common sight along the roads in these regions. Large investments were made by the central government in these distant, sparsely populated regions with the goal to reach common prosperity, says Miao Xin, vice-governor of Malipo county. While 99% of land in the county is mountainous and remote, the government has tapped into its abundant natural resources. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided assistance to the county since 1992, undertakings projects in areas such as basic living needs, education, and healthcare. According to Mr. Xin, the central government has also set up enterprises to promote job opportunities. He stated that the county has been free from extreme poverty since 2020 with an annual disposable income of 9,000 RMB per person.

The spirit of the people

While government investments and projects have played a huge role in the upliftment of the regions, the role of the people is equally important. The Jiwozhai village in Ma'andi township of Jinping county in Yunnan tells one such tale of people's cooperation. Located nearly 150 km away from the county centre at an altitude of nearly 1,300 m from sea level, the village is home to ancient tea trees. Local people believe that these trees, with the oldest ones being around for nearly 800 years, bring prosperity to those who touch it and are the main income source for the village.

Here the Yizhuolan ancient tea production and marketing professional cooperative, established in 2014, runs business. Local people work part-time in the collection and processing of the tea leaves. According to Su Yuan Hui, head of the cooperative, the tea leaves are sold in domestic markets and are exported to countries like France, Japan, and Vietnam. The cooperative has five private shareholders along with 2.8 million RMB investments from the provincial government and Shanghai municipality in an example of inter-provincial cooperation model where developed regions from eastern China send investments and human resources to aid the western provinces. The annual revenue of the cooperative stands at 1,60,000 to 1,80,000 RMB and the profits are split between the shareholders, with the village committee getting a share which is distributed to the villagers where the average household income is nearly 30,000 RMB per year, says Mr. Su. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also assisted in the setting up of the tea-processing factory with interest-free loans, he says.

With poverty alleviation measures having shown results in improving basic living conditions, China is slowly shifting its focus to accelerating rural revitalisation. In January this year, the central committee of the CPC released the 'Rural comprehensive revitalisation plan' which aims at tackling existing major rural issues by 2027. It focuses on enhancing agricultural output to secure food security while boosting the prosperity of rural communities, closing the urban-rural income gap, and developing infrastructure.

Other than the serene nature and exciting landscape, what makes rural China standout is the spirit of people. Travelling along the slopes through long stilt passes at a height of more than 200 metres make the villages look tiny – until the realisation strikes that the will of the same people in these tiny villages has played its part in holding up the stilts.

The writer is in China at the invitation of the China Public Diplomacy association.

Scenic view: A windmill on top of a hill in Panzhihua in the Sichuan province, China.

THE GIST

While urban China, with its postmodern skyline of Shanghai and vintage eloquence of Beijing, sprints ahead in terms of development and modernisation to make up the core of the country's economy, its countryside is a quiet but strong testament to Chinese socialism.

While the Chinese government stressed on modernisation and development during the decades following the opening up of its economy under former President Deng Xiaoping, poverty alleviation had also received its fair share of attention.

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Controller of Administration

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INDIAN RAILWAYS
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Electrification of 25 kV, 50 Hz, AC, Single Phase Overhead Equipment for Krishnarajapuram shed (Phase- III) project of Gati Shakti Uniti, Bengaluru division in South Western Railway.	15.01.2026

Place : Bengaluru
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti/ Bengaluru

PUB/694/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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OA No. 353 / 2022

Between :
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
J.P. Nagar Branch, Bengaluru. **... Applicant**
And :
1. M/s. M.R. SOURCING
Prop. : Mr. Manikandan .G S/o. N. Govindaraju,
19/01, Sy.No. 134/2, 2nd Cross, Muniyappa Building, Chikkathogur Gate, Electronic City, Bengaluru - 560 100. Ph. No.: 9880048345.
2. Mrs. Nithya M W/o. Mr. Manikandan .G
Flat No. 301 A, 3rd Floor, Divyajyothi Emaralds
Opp. Karnataka Bank, Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru South - 560 035.
... Defendants

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act. 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 84,80,567.00 (Rupees Eighty Four Lakhs Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Seven Only),** together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on the **09.01.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **Date : 04-12-2025**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 2
Bangalore

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Institute for Plasma Research

भाट, इन्दिरा पुल के निकट, गांधीनगर–३८२ ४२८ (भारत)
Bhat, Near Indira Bridge, Gandhinagar – 382 428 (India)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के विवरण / II - Details of Tender Notice

TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL-PR/02/2025 (Two Bid System)

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-निविदा मोड के माध्यम से योग्य बोलीकर्ताओं से दो भागों में ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं।

Online tenders are invited in **Two Parts** THROUGH e-tendering mode from Eligible Bidders for the following work.

कार्य का नाम:	आईपीआर परिसर, गांधीनगर में व्यापक परामर्श सेवाएं जैसे की आर्किटेक्चरल, सिविल एवं स्ट्रक्चरल, पाइपलाइन, इलेक्ट्रिकल, एचवीएसी, फायर डिटेक्शन, फायर फाइटिंग एवं सेफ्टी, इंटीरियर, ईएलवी सिस्टम, ध्वनिक, जनरल विकास कार्य, सहित मल्टीपर्पोस प्रशासनिक ब्लॉक और संबंधित सहायक कार्यों के निर्माण के साथ उपयोग में सुविधा प्रदान करना।
Name of Work	**Providing Comprehensive Consultancy Services** including Architectural, Civil & Structural, Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC, Fire Detection, Fire Fighting & safety, Interior, ELV Systems, Acoustic, General Development works, & to make facility in use for Construction of Multipurpose Administrative Block and related allied works at IPR campus Gandhinagar.

निविदा दस्तावेज विस्तृत निविदा सूचना के साथ **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** पर निशुल्क देखेने तथा डाउनलोड करने के लिए उपलब्ध है।

Detailed tender notice and Tender Document for the respective work is available on website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for free view and downloading.

इस निविदा सूचना की प्रति देखने के लिए संस्थान की वेबसाईट पर भी उपलब्ध है।

A copy of this tender notice is also available on the Institute's website for viewing only http://www.ipr.res.in/documents/tenders.html

support.civiltenders@ipr.res.in

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Chamarajpet Division, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road,
Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018.

No: EE/CMP/TEND/E-PROC/15/2025-26 Date: 04-12-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC, Zone-2, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BCCC / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the work as detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Repair and Improvements to K.R. Market. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 145.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.18 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online plus remaining balance BG / FDR)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06-12-2025. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **11-12-2025 at 11.00 AM. in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Central, Zone-2), Annexure-3, GBA Head Office, Bengaluru - 560001. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 4.00 PM on 17-12-2025. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division on 18-12-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC.

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department
Srikakulam Urban Development Authority, Srikakulam

e-Procurement Tender Notice
14/2025 - 26, Dt.04-12-2025, SE, SUDA

Roc No. : 302/2025/SUDA/SKLM **Date: 05-12-2025**

Notice inviting applications for development works (Preparation of GIS Based Perspective plan and Master plan under Request For Proposal (RFP). For Srikakulam Urban Development Authority, Srikakulam in 1233 Revenue Villages across 26 Revenue Mandals covering an area of 3532.56 Sq.Km

The Bid document is available in e-procurement portal from **05-12-2025 @ 3:00 pm** onwards and The Submission of bid document will be closed on **05-01-2026 @ 4:00 pm**. For bids visit website **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**

Conditions: SUDA reserves the full right to partially or completely cancel / reject the tender without providing any reason.

Sd/- Farman Ahmad Khan, I.A.S.,
Vice Chairperson, SUDA, Srikakulam

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government Of India Undertaking)

Mysuru Rural Regional Office,
No. 26/A, 1st Floor, Guest House Road,
Nazarbad, Mysore - 570010
Ph.: 0821-2568720

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

We, Canara Bank, had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

Branch : T. Narasipura Branch

Name and Address of the Borrowers/ Co-borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors : 1) M/s P S A Metals, Door No. 393, 1st Floor, Shop No.03, Sheru Circle, C K Road, Channapatna Town, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160 **.... Borrower 2) Sri. Syed Nooruddin** S/o Syed Yakub, Door No.563, Kothanahalli, Channapatna Taluk,Ramanagara District - 562160 **.... Partner/Guarantor 3) Smt. M Savitha** D/o Mari Swamy, Site No. 472, Shivashakthi and Hardware, Dalavayi Agrahara, T.Narasipura Town, T.Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District-571124 **.... Partner/Guarantor /Mortgagor No 3, 4) Also at Smt. M Savitha** W/o C M Prakash, Door No.321, Dalavayi Agrahara, T.Narasipura Town & Taluk, Mysuru District-571124 **.... Partner/Guarantor /Mortgagor No.3. 5) Sri. Shaik Mohammed Zeeshan** S/o Asgar Ahmed, No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramnagar District-562160 **.... Partner/ Guarantor, 6) Smt. Shafiya Mumtaz Bano,** No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District-562160 **.... Partner/Guarantor 7) Also at Smt. Shafiya Mumtaz Bano** W/o Asgar Ahmed, No. 564 Ghanimiya Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramnagar District-562160 **.... Partner/Guarantor 8) Sri. Syed Shamshuddin** S/o M Syed Yakub, No. 564 Ghanimiya Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramnagar District-562160**....Partner/Guarantor 9) Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed,** S/o Mohammed Peer, No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramnagar District-562160 **.... Partner/ Mortgagor No 1, 10) Sri. Mohsien Ali** S/o Late Abbas Ali, 564, Ghanimiyan Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramnagar District-562160 **.... Partner/Guarantor 11) Sri. C M Prakash** S/o M Mahadevappa Door No. 321, Dalavayi Agrahara, T.Narasipura Town & Taluk, Mysuru District-571124 **.... Guarantor/Mortgagor No 2**

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of Sanction	Limit	Liability with interest as on 21-11-2025	Rate Of Interest
125001062549 8	MSME -OD	17-02-2022	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-	Rs. 2,07,87,978/-	10.65% with 2.00% Penal Interest per annum (Monthly Compounded)

Total Liability Amount : **Rs. 2,07,87,978/- (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Only)** with further cost and charges, Interest and incidental expenses and costs.

NPA Date : 26-10-2025 **Demand Notice Dated : 21-11-2025**

1) Name of the title holder : Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed, S/o Mohammed Peer (as per the gift deed Document No. CAN-1-02607-2007-08, CD No. CAND35, Dated 14-01-2008 at Channapatna Sub-Registrar Office)

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property 1 : All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Land and Building, Muncipal Khata No. 1897, Muncipal Old Property No.1530/1, PID No.26-1-10-26, **Measuring East to West on the 6.47 Meters, on the South 7.62 Meters, North to South on the East 17.68 Meter, on the West 12.65 Meter (6.47+7.62 X 17.68+12.65 Meters),** Property Situated at Ward No. 26, Sathanur Road, Munciapl 'B' Division, Channapatna Town, Ramanagara District. Property Bounded by **East By:** RCC Building belongs to S Mohammed, **West By :** Property of Syed Naziulla, **North By :** Property of Shah Mohammed, **South By :** Sathanur Road.

2) Name of the title holder : Sri. Sheik Davud@Asgar Ahmed, S/o Mohammed Peer

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property 2 : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Muncipal Khata No. 822, Old Property No.767/652/653, PID No.24-1-127-13, **Measuring East to West 7.62 Meters and 6.09 Meters, North to South 16.76 Meters and 3.96 Meters (7.62 & 6.09 X 16.76 & 3.96 Meter),** Property Situated at Door No.13, Ward No. 24, between B.M. Road and old Mandipete Road, Block 1 (Salamulla Beedhi), Channapatna Town , Ramanagara District. **Property Bounded by East By:** Road, **West By:** 24-1-127-11, **North By:** 24-1-507-6B, **South By:** 24-1-127-Road.

3) Name of the title holder : Sri. C M Prakash, S/o M Mahadevappa (as per the registered sale deed Document No. TNP-1-03994-2015-16, CD No. TNPD86, Dated 31-12-2015 at T. Narasipura Sub-Registrar Office, T. Narasipura)

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property 3 : A) All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Land and Building property Khata Assessment No.316, Madapura Village Janger No. 516, Property No: 152200702510220058, **Measuring East to West 51.816 Meters, North to South 54.8640 Meters. Total area measuring of 2842.83 Square Meters.**

B) All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Property Khata Assessment No.316, Madapura Village Janger No. 516, Property No: 152200702510220053, **Measuring East to West 21.3360 Meter, North to South 36.576 Meters, Total area of 780.39 Square Meters.** Property Situated at Madapura Village Talakadu Hobli, T Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District - 571124. **Property Bounded by, East By:** Own site & Property of Madashetty, **West By:** Property of Biligiri, **North By:** Talakadu Road **South By:** Property of M. Mahadevaiah (M. Mahadevappa)

4) Name of the title holder : Smt. M Savitha, W/o C M Prakash (as per the registered sale deed Document No. TNP-1-02491-2012-13, CD No. TNPD54, Dated 20-07-2012 at T. Narasipura Sub-Registrar Office, T. Narasipura)

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property 4 : A) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No.472/476/434, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 18 Feet (50X18).**

B) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No. 473/477/435, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 19¾ Feet (50X19¾).**

C) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No. 474/478/436, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 19¾ Feet (50X19¾).**

Property Situated at Dalavayi Agrahara, T.Narasipura Town, T.Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District-571124. **Property Bounded by East By:** Property of Nandish, **West By:** Road, **North By:** House of Gopalaraya, **South By:** House of Subramanya Bhat

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank**, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 05-12-2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Mysuru **Canara Bank**

Silk Mark Expo 2025 inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From silk sarees to trays of cocoons, hybrids and pupae-based products, this year's Silk Mark Expo in Bengaluru brought together the full range of India's sericulture, from the familiar to the rarely seen.

The expo features 43 stalls from weaving clusters and silk-producing regions across the country.

The Silk Mark Expo 2025 is being organised by the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI) and was inaugurated at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath on Thursday, and it will go on till December 9.

One of the sections at the expo displayed the 1st to 5th instar stages of the silkworm to show how the larvae grow before spinning cocoons.

Another section showcased silkworm hybrids such as the double hybrid Krisharaja, the Bulgarian double hybrid, coloured silk lines, and samples of Mysore silk.

There were also displays of silkworm derived products, including roasted and spiced silkworm pupae and pupae oil.

Policeman accused of stealing ₹11 lakh from car of suspect

Inquiry is under way, says Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh; the incident took place at police headquarters. This is the latest in a series of misconduct cases involving police personnel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Illustration: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

In yet another embarrassment to Bengaluru City Police, a head constable of a Cyber Crime police station has been accused of stealing ₹11 lakh belonging to a suspect during an interrogation inside the Bengaluru City Police Headquarters.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that an inquiry was under way and assured of stringent action.

However, no FIR has been registered and the accused policeman was not arrested, when last checked on Thursday. The incident reportedly happened on November 30 and came to light on December 1. An accused in a cybercrime case, who had secured bail recently, had been brought in for questioning to the city headquarters.

The accused had allegedly kept around ₹11 lakh in the vehicle when he was taken in for questioning. When he finished the formalities and returned home, he reportedly found the cash missing. He went and asked the Cyber Crime police who checked the CCTV footage and reportedly found constable Zabiullah taking a bag from the car. Sources said that the Central Crime Branch raided his house and recovered part of the cash hidden under the bed.

He had also allegedly bought gold jewellery for his wife and tried to obstruct the search as well. This is the latest in a series of misconduct cases involving police personnel in the city. Recently, a constable attached to the Govindapura police station was arrested in the ATM cash van robbery case, and two J.P. Nagar police personnel were suspended for allegedly extorting money from a senior citizen.

The Bellandur police were also accused of collecting money from a family in a death case.

BWSSB wins award for water management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has received the Geospatial Excellence Award for Water Management at GeoSmart India 2025, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on Thursday.

The award was received by BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath ManoharThe next phase will introduce predictive analytics and project tracking to build a resilient water network for Bengaluru.

Techie found dead; neighbours held for harassment and extortion over property dispute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 43-year-old software professional ended his life at his under-construction home in Nallurahalli after allegedly facing years of harassment, threats and extortion from a neighbour's family and civic officials.

Murali Govindarajulu, an employee at ITPL, living with his wife, two children and mother was found dead on the second floor of their under construction house on Wednesday morning.

Based on a 10-page death note recovered from the scene and a formal complaint filed by his mother, Lakshmi Govindarajulu, 61, police arrested a couple, Shashi Nambiar, 64, and Usha Nambiar, 57, on charges of abetment to suicide and extortion under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Their son, Varun, is currently absconding.

According to the police, the case related to a property dispute in 2018, when the victim, Murali, purchased a 2,400 sq. ft site in Nallurahalli from one of the Nambiars' relatives. Trouble began when he started constructing his house, with the couple staying nearby allegedly objecting to the construction citing violations of the building by-laws.

In her complaint to the Whitefield police, Lakshmi alleged that the couple 'harassed and tortured' Murali and repeatedly demanded ₹20 lakh to stop interfering. When he refused, she claimed that Usha Nambiar roped in the Greater Bengaluru Authority to target him with notices and inspections.

The police have confirmed that the GBA issued a notice summoning Murali for a hearing on December 3, the same day he died, following a complaint by Usha Nambiar over alleged plan deviations. He went to the house in the morning and later ended his life. The incident came to light when the carpenter went to work, found the body and alerted the police. The complainant said that Murali was made to run from pillar to post between various civic and legal offices for months, facing repeated pressure and alleged threats from the couple. His death note reportedly details sustained intimidation and financial demands.

The couple were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody. The police have launched a probe to nab their son. The deceased Murali was a long-time volunteer with the Whitefield Rising, a collective of RWAs in the area, and was a citizen activist. "We are deeply saddened that we have lost a dear friend and volunteer for Whitefield. For years now, Murali has engaged in many ways to help people in the neighborhood," Whitefield Rising said in a statement, urging the police to 'leave no stone unturned' in the investigation.

(*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.*)

Govt. orders Aadhaar biometric update for schoolchildren

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has ordered Aadhaar Mandatory Biometric Update (Aadhaar MBU) for students aged five and 15 in all schools across the State to effectively implement mid-day meals, scholarships and other schemes of the Union and State governments.

The Unique Identification Authority of India will collect and provide information on students who need to update their biometrics on the basis of Unified District Information System for Education, taluk- and school-wise. The State government issued a circular on December 1, setting a deadline of March 1, 2026 for the process to be completed. "Due to the pending Aadhaar MBU, students will face delays in applying for scholarships, various examinations and availing themselves of the benefits of Central/State programmes. In this context, it is necessary to complete the Aadhaar MBU of all students who have reached the age of five and 15," read the State government's circular.

A child under the age of five enrols for Aadhaar by providing the photograph, name, date of birth, gender, address, and birth certificate. The biometric details such as fingerprints and iris are not captured for Aadhaar enrolment below the age of five.

Therefore, updating fingerprints, iris, and photo in Aadhaar is mandatory when the child reaches the age of five. This is called first Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU).

When the Aadhaar number holder attains the age of 15, they should furnish all biometrics for update, which is referred to as the second MBU.

After allegedly killing his wife, elderly man found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A retired BMTC bus driver, distressed over his wife's prolonged illness, allegedly strangled her before ending his life on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Baby, 65, and her husband Venkateshan. The couple lived with their son, Anil Kumar, at 3rd Cross, Chikkagoudanapalya.

The incident came to light when Anil's wife returned home from school with their child, police said. She found Venkateshan hanging from a ceiling fan, while Baby was discovered unconscious on her wheelchair. She was later declared dead. The Subramanyapura police have registered a case.

(*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.*)

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 05		
RISE	06:28	SET 17:52
RISE	18:16	SET 06:39
SATURDAY, DEC. 06		
RISE	06:29	SET 17:53
RISE	19:24	SET 07:48
SUNDAY, DEC. 07		
RISE	06:29	SET 17:53
RISE	20:30	SET 08:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	26	23
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
25ºC The weather will be pleasant. Night will be slight cool and hazy. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26ºC The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Four police personnel suspended for negligence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police Commissioner has suspended four police personnel, including two assistant sub-inspectors, a head constable and a constable, for negligence and dereliction of duty, as part of an ongoing crackdown on non-performing staff.

According to official data, with the suspension of the four policemen, the number of police personnel suspended so far in 2025 stood at 131. In one case, assistant sub-inspector Srinivasmurthy of the Nandini Layout police station was suspended for failing to act on a complaint filed by a resident, Nityananda Murthy. The complainant approached the station on November 9, reporting suspicious visitors to his house. Although the complaint was received, the policeman neither informed his senior officers nor initiated any legal action as per procedure.

Frustrated by the inaction, the complainant posted his experience online, and the post went viral. Taking serious note, the Police Commissioner directed disciplinary action for bringing disrepute to the department.

Court summons

In another incident, assistant sub-inspector Jayarame Gowda and head constable Dharma attached to the Subramanya Nagar police station were suspended for failing to serve summons and warrants issued by a court to accused persons and witnesses in a case.

The court had issued summons on 12 different dates, but the duo failed to deliver them or inform the witnesses, leading to repeated non-appearance.

SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI
At.Post. Shirdi, Tal- Rahata, Dist. A.Nagar - 423 109
Phone No.(02423) 258671/258676
(Website **www.sai.org.in**)
E-mail - **hospital.purchase@sai.org.in**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi invites online E-tender for the Supply & Installation of Fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyser (Free of Cost) with 5 years Reagent Rate Contract for Shree Saibaba & Shree Sainath Hospital, Shirdi from primary manufacturer / Importer / company authorized distributor. The tender details will be available on website **www.mahatenders.gov.in** for downloading. For details and terms & conditions visit our official website **www.sai.org.in**

Tender submission starts date 05/12/2025.
Pre-bid Meeting date 09/12/2025.
Tender submission end date 24/12/2025.

DGIPR/2025/2026/4372

Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer,

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI – 834010.
(CIN – U855100JH2013SGC001276),E-mail:jmhidpc2014@gmail.com
Website: https://jmhidpcl.jharkhand.gov.in/, GST No. 20AADCJ4293L2ZH

Bid Ref. No.JMC/NIT-25/Homeo-Pvt-Drugs/19 Date:04-12-2025

Rate Contract for Supply of HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINES from the manufactures of Private Sector Enterprises.

The Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Limited (JMHIDPCL), Ranchi hereby invites separate Technical Bid and Financial Bid (two envelope system) through e-procurement from eligible manufacturer's.
The Bid documents with detailed conditions can be viewed and downloaded through website http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible Bidder(s) willing to participate must be registered in e-procurement portal.

Particulars	Date & Time
Time of Completion	Within 60 days after issue of work order
Date of Publication of Bid	06-12-2025
Pre-bid Meeting	11-12-2025 03:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	19-12-2025
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	26-12-2025 05:00 PM
Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposal	29-12-2025 05:00 PM
Date of Opening of Financial Proposal	To be notified later
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 200000/- (Online Payment Gateway)
Contact/ Helpline No. of E-Procurement Cell	+91-8709368893

Note: The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays. In the event of any of the dates being declared as a holiday for the office of the JMHIDPCL, the Bids will be opened on the next working day at the appointed time.
JMHIDPCL reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Bid document including quantity/ number of Medicines to be supplied or to reject any or all Bids without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHIDPCL in this regard shall be final.

PR 367732 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(25-26).D

Managing Director JMHIDPCL

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible Contractors for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5083/2025-26	**Date: 04-12-2025**
1	Work of Providing, Laying and Linking of 100 mm Dia DI and 150 mm Dia DI Water Pipeline at Different Locations of Ideal Homes Service Station Limits coming under Ideal Homes S/s. of AEEW-2-1 Sub Division.	**Rs. 154.44 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2.32 Lakhs**
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5085/2025-26	**Date: 04-12-2025**
2	Work of Providing and Laying of 300 mm Dia RCC NP-3 Class Pipeline at Suncity Main and Surrounding Areas coming under Kengeri Service Station of AEEW-2-1 Sub Division.	**Rs. 112.83 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2.00 Lakhs**
	IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-2/TA(W)/5086/2025-26	**Date: 04-12-2025**
3	Work of Providing, Laying and Linking of 230 mm Dia GSW Pipeline in lieu of 150 mm Dia SW Pipeline in Surrounding Areas of BHEL North & South and Pattanagere Village with Construction of New Manholes coming under Ideal Homes Service Station of AEEW-2-1 Sub Division.	**Rs. 117.16 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2.00 Lakhs**

For both the above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **20-12-2025 upto 17.00 Hours.**
Tender will be Opened on: **22-12-2025 after 12.30 Hours.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (West)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/Adverto/4215/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client intends to purchase the Property mentioned in the Schedule from its owner **MADHUMITA NEOGI** also known as **MADHUMITA GUHA MAJUMDER**. Persons having any claim, objections etc., in respect of the said sale transaction, pertaining to the said property may lodge the same with documentary evidence, with the undersigned **within 07 days** from the date of publication of this Notice. Otherwise my client will proceed with the Purchase of the above mentioned property treating that there are no claims or objections.

SCHEDULE

RCC Building No. S2-123 constructed by Karnataka Housing Board measuring about 90 Square Meters on the Ground Floor and about 25 Square Meters on the First Floor constructed on Site No. 123 S2-Type, SFS 208, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560 064, Bangalore North Taluk, coming under the limits of BBMP and assigned as No: 123, Khatha No: 2634/123, Housing Board Colony, SFS 208, 4th Stage, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, BBMP New E PID No.1603378610, Property No: 578/2634/566/123, Measuring: East to West: 15.00+10.00/2, Meters, North to South: 20.00 meters, totally 250 square meters; Bounded on the: **EAST BY**: Property No. 122; **WEST BY:** Property No.124; **NORTH BY:** Rear Pathway; **SOUTH BY:** Road.

K.S. VIJAYA, ADVOCATE
OFFICE: No.3/2, 3rd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018.
Mob. : 94486 13617 / 9972801040

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-32
Dated : 28-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Implementation of Safety and Reliability Action plan for safety of Traction distribution assets at stations, platforms, FOB's, ROBs and LC gates	Rs. 1,29,48,655/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 29-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction Distribution / Hubballi
PUB/704/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. RE-SBC-E-259-TWS-ASK
Dated : 19.11.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of Tower Wagon Shed with repair facility, Siding, approach road, water and sewage arrangements at Arsikere junction station and left over/ miscellaneous works in CEE/ Project/SWR jurisdiction of South Western Railway	Rs. 5,40,06,155.82

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 10-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Railway Electrification
PUB/710/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **M/s. Help A Child and woman of India** (Represented by it Author) **Mrs.Levena Newbegin W/o Newbegin Packinathan** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from Sri.Rajanna S/o Sri.Marappa and others ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Residential **Site No. 110,** formed in Converted land bearing Survey No. 41/1, (Converted vide conversion order bearing No. ALN: (PBB)S.R/203-2011-2012, dated 21.03.2012, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) situated at **Chikkasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru,** measuring: East to West: **30 feet** North to South: **40 feet** In all measuring: **1200 Square Feet,** and bounded on the:
East by : Site No.101, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 109, South by : Site No. 111.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 8951856652, 9845846428
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client Sri Vinay Kumar K to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Discharge deeds 1. Dated 04.12.2020 Registered as document No.6954/2020-21 of Book I, CD No.BSKD947 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Banashankari, Bangalore and 2. Dated 05.12.2020 Registered as document No.6957/2020-21 of Book I, CD No.BSKD947 and registered in the office of the Sub- Registrar Banashankari Bangalore with respect of BDA Site No.982, formed by BDA, Situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 11th Block, Bangalore, measuring East to West 9 meters and North to South 12 meters, total measuring 108 Sq.mtrs., has been lost at the time of travelling.
All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said original Discharge deeds. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No. 1939327/2025, dated 04.12.2025.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER

Dy. CME / Carriage Workshop. Ajmer North Western Railway acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites **E-Tender No. Carriage-38-2025 Date 03.12.2025** Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Details are as under: **Name of work with its location**: "Comprehensive AMC and operation of paint booths at carriage workshop". **Approx. cost of the work**: ₹ 2,43,09,734.40. **Tender Document Cost**: ₹ 00/-. **Earnest Money to be deposited**: ₹ 2,71,600/-. **Date and time for submission of E-Tender**: Submission of E-Tender up to 26.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs. **Website particular: www.ireps.gov.in Eligibility Criteria**: Applicable. **Note**: Tender document cost & Earnest Money to be deposited online through payment gateway facility on the IREPS website only. **1561-AR/25**

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction catalogue No. MPS-UBL-2025-1
Dated : 26-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-auction for the following service.

Name of the work with its location : Award of contract of 9 Multi Purpose Stalls (MPS) at Nimbal (Middle of the PF-1), Gokak Road (PF-1 towards Belagavi end), Rayabag (near FOB towards Miraj end PF-1), Toranagallu (PF-2&3 Pillar No. 11 & 12 under PF shelter), Minchnal (PF No.1, Between Divyangjan Toilet and the New Station Building), Ugar Khurd (PF No.1, Between Garden and the Toilets, towards Miraj end) Toranagallu (PF-2&3 Pillar No. 5&6 under PF shelter), Hagaribommanahalli (PF-1 beside Ramp) and Munirabad (PF No.2, towards Kariganuru end.)

E-Auction scheduled from 10:00 hours to 11:50 hours on 12-12-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in(e-auction portal)
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/708/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Hubballi**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

FULL CONTEXT

In remembrance: Followers of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar gather at Chaityabhoomi to pay him homage on his death anniversary, at Shivaji Park, Dadar, on December 6, 2022 in Mumbai. GETTY IMAGES

How the Mahad satyagraha(s) shaped constitutional discourse

Mahad marks the birthplace of one of India's first human rights movements initiated by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in 1927, challenging caste discrimination and asserting Dalit rights. It also shaped the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule

The Mahad tehsil, in pre-Independent India, was a part of the Bombay Province and a significant economic centre, providing labour to the industrial sector of the Bombay Presidency. In Mahad, imitation of caste norms led to widespread acceptance of caste discrimination, with high-caste individuals treating Dalits with contempt. Untouchability, a result of casteism, represents systemic social exclusion that reinforces the hierarchical nature of the caste system. In Mahad, the exclusion of Dalits was evident in their denial of access to drinking water from public tanks, such as the Chavadar Tank.

Mahad was a key site for one of India's first rights movements, which paved the way for human rights discourse and its lessons absorbed in constitutional ethics.

Understanding the legacy

The movement for human rights and water democracy started with a resolution, passed in the Bombay Legislative Council in August 1923, initiated by S. K. Bole. It stated, "The council recommends that the untouchable classes be allowed to use all public watering places in dharamshalas, which are built and maintained out of public funds administered by parties appointed by the government or created by statute, as well as public schools, courts, offices, and dispensaries".

This resolution challenged Brahmanical dominance and prompted social change efforts at Goregaon and Dasgaon near Mahad. In 1926, Ramchandra Chandorkar, a leader from the Chambhar caste, jumped into a public reservoir in Goregaon, which sparked attacks on untouchables' – Chambhars and Mahars – properties by villagers. In Dasgaon, the Mahar Samaj Seva Sangh, which aimed to unite the depressed classes for equality, saw Chandorkar, R. B. More, Ramji Potdar, and others drink from a local lake and wells. Communist R. B. More's memoir highlights how the region was eager to support Ambedkar's struggle for equity and equality, seeking to restore the rights of untouchables. Additionally, this region was renowned for being the birthplace of activists like Gopalbaba Walangkar, N. M. Joshi, Sambhaji Gaikwad, and others. Thus, Mahad was selected by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as the site of one of India's first human rights movements.

Mahad 1.0 and 2.0

Dr. Ambedkar and his *anuyayis* (followers) conducted a satyagraha on March 19-20, 1927, by asserting the rights of untouchables to drink water as per the Bole Resolution of 1923. The *anuyayis* of Ambedkar thronged to the event with their meagre belongings, empty stomachs, and lathis (traditionally carried by Mahars, except those who came from the then Bombay presidency) to assert their rights. However, the satyagrahis were denied water by the locals; hence, water worth ₹40 had to be purchased specifically for this purpose.

After the Mahad 1.0 satyagraha, purification rituals were performed, because Dr. Ambedkar and his *anuyayis* had touched and consumed the water, which aimed to reinforce the caste system over human rights. Consequently, Dr. Ambedkar planned the Second Mahad conference for December 25 and 26, 1927. Meanwhile, the courts issued a stay restricting water access for outcastes, claiming the Chavadar tank was privately owned.

During this period, Dr. Ambedkar launched his fortnightly publication, *Bahishkrut Bharat*, which discussed democratic truths and ideals while emphasising human rights. He also participated in the Ambabai Temple satyagraha, initiated by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in November 1927, following violent attacks on Dalits after the Mahad incident, which led to the formation of the Ambedkar Seva Dal for their protection. Since the Chavadar Lake case was still pending, Dr. Ambedkar decided against launching a satyagraha after consulting his followers. However, on December 25, he burned the Manusmriti following a resolution from Gangadhar Sahasrabuddhe, Rajbhoj, and Thorat. In Mahad 2.0, he specifically addressed women, asserting that human rights should include gender equality.

The Mahad revolution

Dr. Ambedkar stated that the Mahad 1.0 and Mahad 2.0 satyagrahas embodied the zeitgeist of the French Revolution.

In Dr. Ambedkar's speeches during the Mahad satyagraha, he promotes an enlightened ethos of dignity and self-respect. In Mahad 2.0, Dr. Ambedkar discusses the French National Assembly of 1798. These two historical events, which defined the two eras, Mahad 1.0 and 2.0, were instrumental in shaping the idea of India and the ethics of its Constitution.

However, the French Revolution, didn't encompass women in its idea of rights. So, neither their National Assembly nor further developments base their substantive egalitarianism by including the living bodies and souls of women. It was Mary Wollstonecraft's intervention via her pamphlet "A Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Citizen" that questioned the exclusion and the place of women in the French Revolution.

Dr. Ambedkar, in his 1916 paper, had proposed a novel gendered understanding of caste(s), questioning the approach of Indian sociologists to understand the making-remaking-unmaking of women to grasp the issue of caste, as well as the non-workability of the silos approach to annihilate it. The end can be achieved through gendered means only. The speeches and actions at Mahad 1.0 have the partnership of women and men, irrespective of their gender, geography, class, and caste(s). They gathered there as the National Assembly to break free from the imposed Brahmanical hegemony and chart their own course, just as the Third Estate did during their Tennis Court Oath after being denied permission by King Louis XVI. In Mahad 2.0, although preliminary, the resolution passed appears to be influenced primarily because it inflicts injustice on Shudras. However, even an initial understanding of dogmas, as well as the period of the Manusmriti, suggests that it treated women as Shudras. Contemporary literary and historical texts provide ample evidence to support this.

Dr. Ambedkar's actions in Mahad 2.0, especially the burning of the Manusmriti and addressing the gathering of women, try to foreground a new discourse on human rights whose liberty, equality, and fraternity principles are derived from non-violent Buddhism.

Dr. Ambedkar introduced a new concept of a gendered nation whose enlightened nationalism was based not on essentialism but on existentialism, rooted in the body of the people and their natural, legal human rights. Thus, December 25 is also celebrated in India as Indian Women's Liberation Day. The only essentialism it strives to seek is the Manuski, based on Maitri, which is a true democracy lived rather than a mere idea of governmentality. This reflects the foundations of constitutional morality derived from the ethics learned during the Mahad Satyagraha, institutionalised in the Constitution of India.

Nikhil Sanjay-Rekha Adsule is a Senior Research Scholar, IIT-Delhi

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Walter Elias Disney, a pioneer of the animation industry in the U.S., was born on this day in 1901. How well do you know Disney films?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
This film, about a robot who is left to clean up garbage on future Earth, was named after Walt Disney. Name the film.

QUESTION 2
This is the oldest Disney film. It was made as a live action recently and was heavily criticised for reasons ranging from casting to political incorrectness. Name it.

QUESTION 3
This Disney character doesn't speak. It has inspired an aerial carousel-style ride in Fantasyland at six Disney theme parks around the world. His name rhymes with a word that means very large. Name him.

QUESTION 4
This Disney film gave a massive boost to Norwegian tourism. A fictional kingdom in the film was also named after a real Norwegian coastal town. Name the film.

QUESTION 5
She is sometimes considered Disney's "unofficial" mascot and often appears alongside Walt Disney's studio logo. Who is she?

Visual question:
This film was loosely based on a novel by Charles Dickens. Name it.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This man submitted a report in 1946, in which he called to merge curative treatment with preventive care and build medical colleges to train human resources. **Ans: Joseph William Bhore**
2. This physician was a freedom fighter who went on to serve in government as well. **Ans: Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (B.C.Roy)**
3. Dr. Kadambini was the first practising female doctor in India, and held this historic role as well. **Ans: She was the first woman speaker at a meeting of the Indian National Congress. She addressed the gathering during the 1890 Congress session**
4. This Indian physician and scientist made a monumental contribution by discovering the effective treatment for kala-azar. **Ans: Dr. Upendra Nath Brahmachari**
5. In 1959, the Union government set up a Health Survey and Planning Committee headed by this person. **Ans: Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar**
Visual: This doctor set up a distinguished institution in Madras that puts service before profit while delivering specialised healthcare. **Ans: Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tito Shiladitya| M. Suresh Kumar| Gaurav Deshmukh| Vidyasagar Reddy Kethiri

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Nice to see you. Have your cousins left?"
"Yes. They left about 10 days ago. I got their bread-and-butter letter yesterday."
"Bread-and-butter letter?"
"It's the letter you write to your host and hostess thanking them for their wonderful hospitality."
"It's like a thank you note, then?"
"I guess you could say that. As soon as I returned from Mumbai, I wrote a bread-and- butter letter to my cousin."
"I never write bread-and-butter letters to my cousins. Why should I? It's their job to look after me when I visit them."
"Not all people are fond of their cousins, you know."
"Who cares! As far as I'm concerned, it's your job to take care of your relatives. Anyway, you know my cousin Mohan? He's bought a brand new computer!"
"The computer, in my opinion, is the greatest thing since sliced bread."
"The greatest thing since sliced bread! What are you talking about? I don't..."
"...it's an idiomatic expression. When you say that something is the greatest or best thing since sliced bread, it means that you appreciate the thing very much. You think it's wonderful. For example, when cable television came to India, many people thought it was the best thing since sliced bread."
"Many people still think that it's the best thing since sliced bread."
"That's true."
"My cousin thinks that Madonna's CD is the greatest thing since sliced bread."
"To tell you the truth, I hate bread. Sliced or unsliced."
"I am not fond of bread either."
"Tell me, what kind of speech did your Principal give on Children's Day?"
"The usual boring kind. He talked about Pandit Nehru. He got all the dates wrong. But strangely enough none of the teachers bothered to correct him."
"The teachers know which side their bread is buttered."
"Bread and butter again! I thought you said you didn't like bread."
"I don't. When you say someone 'knows which side his bread is buttered', it means that in a given situation the person is smart enough to know what is good for him and what is not. Such a person will not offend a person in power."
"...if he does, he might get into trouble! The teachers didn't want to offend the Principal because he might have created problems for them later on."
"Exactly! Most policemen don't take action against politicians because they know which side their bread is buttered."
"Most cricketers don't speak ill of the committee members because they know which side their bread is buttered."
"Otherwise the 'jokers' might drop them from the team! Now let me..."
"....I have heard commentators on television say that the leg glance is someone's bread and butter shot. What does it mean?"
"When you talk about the 'bread and butter' of an organisation, you are talking about the activity which provides the organisation its main source of income."
"So, when you talk about the bread and butter of a person, you are talking about the activity which provides the person his income."
"Exactly!"
Published in The Hindu on November 17, 1998.

Word of the day

Drowsy:
half asleep; showing lack of attention or boredom

Synonyms: oscitant, yawning

Usage: *The cold made her feel drowsy.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/drowsypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdɹaʊzi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

NEWS 1st

STAR OF ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

Honoring business leaders and entrepreneurs. An initiative by News First Kannada to celebrate trailblazers in the industry.

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Dr. Wooday P. Krishna
Honorary General Secretary
Sheshadripuram Educational Trust

Mr. K.M. Nagaraj
Chairman
Community Centre Group of Educational Institutions

Dr. Chetan Kumar Mehta
Chairman & Managing Director
Laxmi Diamonds, Bengaluru

Mr. Vinay Kumar G. B
Founder & Director
Insights IAS

Mr. Anand V. Bhat
Chairman & Managing Director
BNB Security & Automation Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Raviraj, Neelpankaj, Madhusudan
Directors
Diginova Control & Systems

Dr. Shafiq A. M
Co-Founder, Managing Director & CEO
Trilife Hospital

Mrs. Latha Vasistha | Mr. Mahesh Vasistha
Founder & CEO | Co-Founder & COO
Aadhya Airtek

Mr. Dhruva Kumar H. P.
Managing Director
Weddings by Dhruva

Ms. Abhi Navya
Daughter of Dr. Bommanhalli Babu
Founder
Attica Gold Company

Mr. T. N. Gangadhar
Founder & CEO
Spoorthy Integrated Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd

Mr. Anil H. K
Founder & Managing Director
Apoorva Veg
New Apoorva Super Speciality Hospital

Mr. Prasanna P. Gowda
Managing Director
Panchami Group of Companies

Dr. Anil Kumar M. R
Chairman & Managing Director
Oncoville Cancer Hospital & Research Center

Mr. P. S. Sudhakar Shetty
Founder
Sri Gururaja Darshini Mallige Idly Center

Mr. H. P. Rajagopala Reddy
Founder
RGR Groups

Mrs. Hema Niranjan
Director
DCI Concepts Pvt. Ltd.

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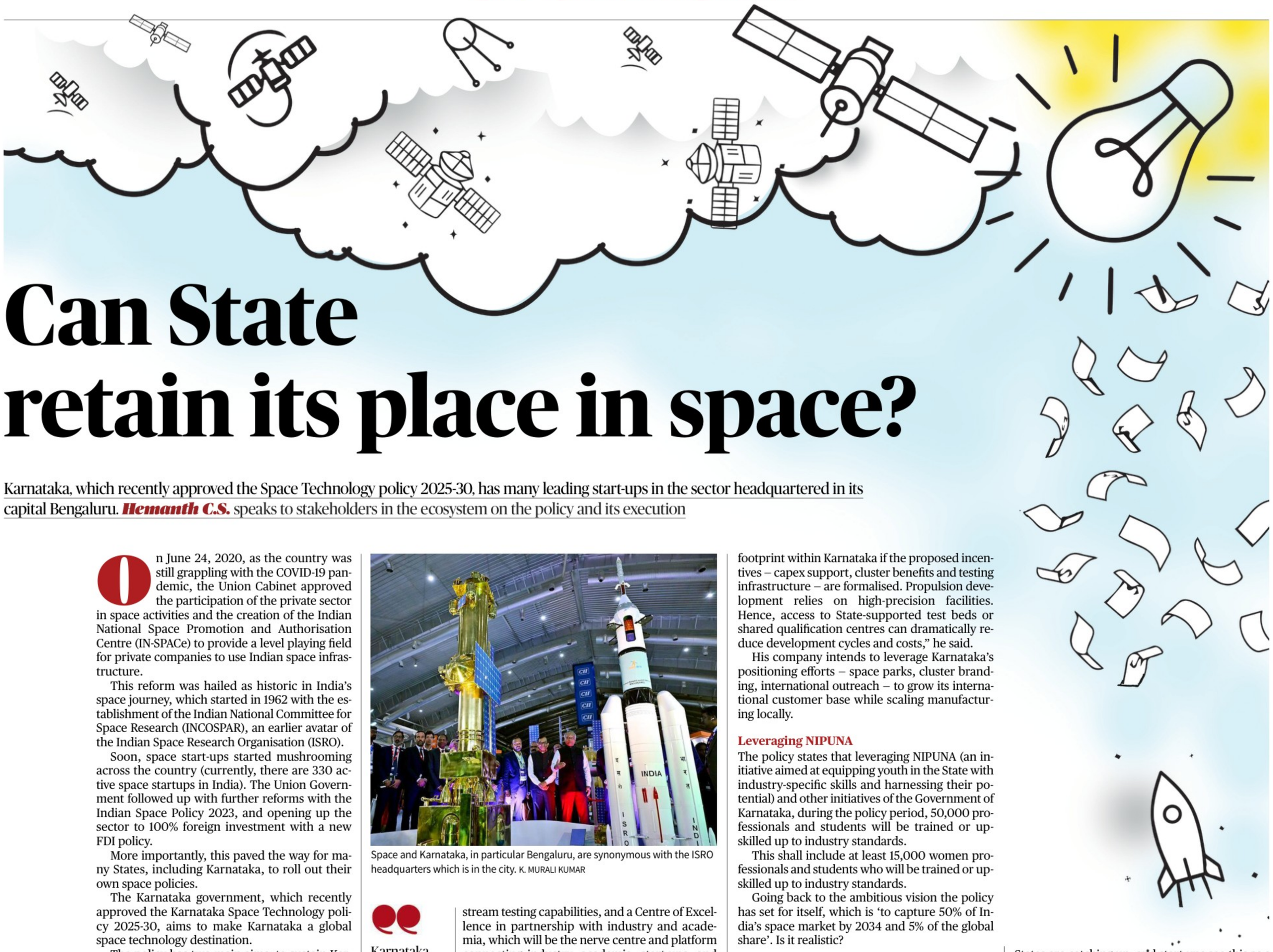

Can State retain its place in space?

Karnataka, which recently approved the Space Technology policy 2025-30, has many leading start-ups in the sector headquartered in its capital Bengaluru. ***Hemanth C.S.*** speaks to stakeholders in the ecosystem on the policy and its execution

On June 24, 2020, as the country was still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Cabinet approved the participation of the private sector in space activities and the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure.

This reform was hailed as historic in India's space journey, which started in 1962 with the establishment of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), an earlier avatar of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Soon, space start-ups started mushrooming across the country (currently, there are 330 active space startups in India). The Union Government followed up with further reforms with the Indian Space Policy 2023, and opening up the sector to 100% foreign investment with a new FDI policy.

More importantly, this paved the way for many States, including Karnataka, to roll out their own space policies.

The Karnataka government, which recently approved the Karnataka Space Technology policy 2025-30, aims to make Karnataka a global space technology destination.

The policy has two main aims: to sustain Karnataka as the number one destination for space technology in India and hold 50% of the national market share which is $22 billion market by 2033; and to propel Karnataka into a global space technology destination with comprehensive capabilities across the space value chain, targeting 5% of the global market share.

ISRO paves the way

Space and Karnataka, in particular Bengaluru, are synonymous with the ISRO headquarters having been established in the city about five decades ago.

Many of ISRO's critical establishments such as the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network, Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems and Human Space Flight Centre, are located in Bengaluru.

Some of the leading start-ups in the sector are headquartered in Bengaluru, which gives Karnataka a headstart when compared to Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, which have also come up with their own space policies.

Some of the leading start-ups in the space sector are located in Bengaluru, which gives Karnataka a headstart when compared to other States that have come up with their own space policies. K. MURALI KUMAR

Heart of ecosystem

"Karnataka has long been the heart of India's space tech ecosystem, and the new space policy is a strong step towards deepening that leadership. It recognises how rapidly the sector is evolving, whether in satellite manufacturing, Earth observation, launch, or downstream analytics. It creates a framework that enables companies like ours to build globally competitive capabilities from India," says Awais Ahmed, founder and CEO, Pixxel, a Bengaluru-based start-up.

He added that as a company based in Bengaluru, Pixxel has consistently benefited from the State's depth in engineering, talent pool, and innovation culture.

"The new policy creates opportunities for us to advance satellite manufacturing further, strengthen our research partnerships with institutions in the State, and foster closer collaboration with emerging start-ups and suppliers within the region," said Ahmed.

He argued that the focus on high-precision manufacturing, testing infrastructure, and support for emerging technologies is particularly 'relevant to our work in hyperspectral Earth observation and planetary intelligence'. "With the right support mechanisms now coming into place, we expect this to strengthen our ability to build, test, and deliver high-impact space systems from Karnataka," Ahmed added.

Infrastructure needs

Among the infrastructure which the government wants to establish through the policy are space manufacturing parks across Karnataka, new testing centres through Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode to expand upstream and downstream testing capabilities, and a Centre of Excellence in partnership with industry and academia, which will be the nerve centre and platform connecting industry, academia, start-ups, and government to innovate and accelerate the adoption of space technologies.

Space and Karnataka, in particular Bengaluru, are synonymous with the ISRO headquarters which is in the city. K. MURALI KUMAR

> Karnataka has long been the heart of India's space tech ecosystem, and the new space policy is a strong step towards deepening that leadership
>
> **AWAIS AHMED,** founder and CEO, Pixxel

The policy states that its focus area will include upstream and downstream activities for commercial space, defence space, electronics and space research, including astronomy and astrophysics

The upstream (including space and ground systems) segment also aims to incorporate areas such as space stations, space tourism, in-orbit services, and space manufacturing activities.

"The government of Karnataka shall support enterprises engaged in the development of next-generation space capabilities, including space stations and tourism infrastructure, in-orbit manufacturing, and servicing capabilities. This also includes space situational awareness systems that ensure safe and sustainable space operations," the policy states.

According to the policy, start-ups and MSMEs will be reimbursed Provident Fund (PF) or Employee's State Insurance (ESI) of ₹1,800 per employee per month for two years subject to total reimbursement of up to ₹12 lakh. This will be applicable for all new employment created during the policy period, provided the employment is for a continuous period of only two years.

Upskilling and reskilling

Suyash Singh, co-founder and CEO of GalaxEye, welcoming this initiative, said that the focus on upskilling and reskilling prepares the workforce for emerging opportunities.

"Space technology demands advanced, hands-on expertise that goes beyond classroom learning. It's encouraging to see the government of Karnataka recognise this as a vital element in developing human capital. Such initiatives will also encourage companies to relocate here, attracted by the presence of a highly skilled talent pool. I also see the PF and ESI reimbursement as a very practical measure," he said.

"For us, it means the ability to grow our team sustainably while ensuring they get opportunities to learn, adapt, and stay aligned with the fast-moving nature of space technology. It's a thoughtful policy design that supports both innovation and people," he added.

Support for 500 start-ups

The policy further states that, during the policy period, at least 500 space sector start-ups and MSME will be supported to grow and innovate.

"During the policy period, over 50 satellites with substantial indigenisation shall be designed, manufactured, assembled, integrated, tested, launched and operated by Karnataka-based New-Space enterprises for commercial, defence-space and research purposes," it states.

Bengaluru-based start-ups are all game to leverage this policy.

Yashas Karanam, co-founder & COO, Bellatrix Aerospace, said that being headquartered in Bengaluru gives it a natural advantage, and the new policy expands that significantly.

"We plan to engage closely with the State's thrust areas: skilling, R&D collaboration, and manufacturing incentives. For example, we're evaluating expanding our subsystem manufacturing footprint within Karnataka if the proposed incentives – capex support, cluster benefits and testing infrastructure – are formalised. Propulsion development relies on high-precision facilities. Hence, access to State-supported test beds or shared qualification centres can dramatically reduce development cycles and costs," he said.

His company intends to leverage Karnataka's positioning efforts – space parks, cluster branding, international outreach – to grow its international customer base while scaling manufacturing locally.

Leveraging NIPUNA

The policy states that leveraging NIPUNA (an initiative aimed at equipping youth in the State with industry-specific skills and harnessing their potential) and other initiatives of the Government of Karnataka, during the policy period, 50,000 professionals and students will be trained or upskilled up to industry standards.

This shall include at least 15,000 women professionals and students who will be trained or upskilled up to industry standards.

Going back to the ambitious vision the policy has set for itself, which is 'to capture 50% of India's space market by 2034 and 5% of the global share'. Is it realistic?

Execution is key

Yashas says that the policy's real value will depend on execution. His company Bellatrix Aerospace develops and manufactures advanced propulsion technologies.

"Propulsion, in particular, requires precision manufacturing, vacuum-test infrastructure, high-fidelity qualification labs, and predictable regulatory pathways. The framework is promising, but its impact will hinge how quickly on-ground capabilities materialise. However, the State's ambition to capture 50% of the national space market is both pragmatic and achievable if the ecosystem investments are deep and sustained," Yashas says.

Karnataka, given its space history, is certainly a front-runner in the space race. However, other States are catching up, and start-ups see this as a positive sign.

Sign of strategic sector

"It's a positive sign for the country. State-level policies show that India is recognising space as a strategic sector with economic and technological significance. While ISRO and IN-SPACe guide national-level priorities, States creating their frameworks helps unlock regional strengths, in manufacturing, innovation clusters, universities, or specialised research facilities," says Ahmed. For companies like Pixxel, it means a more distributed and resilient ecosystem to build in, he added. "As long as these policies complement national goals and facilitate ease of doing business, they can collectively accelerate India's emergence as a global space technology hub," he added.

'Healthy competition among States will help build a strong and diversified space industry'

Hemanth C.S.

Vinod Kumar, Director, Promotion Directorate, IN-SPACe, Department of Space, Government of India, spoke to *The Hindu* about the space policies unveiled by multiple States and their potential impact on the sector in India.

Excerpts from an interview:

Karnataka recently unveiled its space policy. What are your views on it?

The Karnataka Space Policy is a welcome step, and reflects the growing confidence and maturity of India's space ecosystem. As more private players enter the sector, dedicated policies at the State-level help build supportive environments for talent, industry, start-ups and research.

Earlier this year, IN-SPACe and Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, signed MoUs for establishing a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Space Technologies in Bengaluru, and for setting up of a public-private space manufacturing park that will anchor next-generation satellite and launch-vehicle production.

Karnataka has a strong legacy in technology and innovation, and its decision to formalise a space policy will further encourage companies and academic institutions in the State to expand their contribution to India's space sector.

Apart from Karnataka, many States have come up with their own space policies. How do you view this?

It is encouraging to see multiple States, including Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, actively formulating space policies. Each of these States is doing commendable work to promote private investment, support startups, and enable local research. This multi-State momentum shows that space is now recognised as a strategic and high-value sector across the country. A healthy spirit of collaboration and competition among States will ultimately accelerate innovation, and help India build a strong and diversified space industry.

Have the State governments consulted IN-SPACe before formulating their respective policies? How has IN-SPACe helped them?

As the nodal agency under the Department of Space for the promotion and authorisation of non-government space activities in India, IN-SPACe is closely consulted by most State governments during the drafting of their space policies.

We engage in multiple rounds of discussions wherever required, sharing insights on regulatory frameworks, industry requirements, safety standards, and global best practices.

Our role has been to guide and support States so their policies are inclusive, industry-friendly and aligned with the overall national vision for the space sector.

Vinod Kumar, Director, Promotion Directorate, IN-SPACe

A Literary City

Bookmarking BLR, which was held in collaboration with the upcoming Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF), was filled with trivia-laced stories about the city's bookstores and writers

Books and the city (Clockwise) A group picture; at a previous edition of BLF; the group outside Koshy's; Naresh Narasimhan. GULLY TOURS AND K MURALI KUMAR

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The story of Higginbothams, possibly India's oldest bookstore still in existence, begins with its founder, Abel Joshua Higginbotham, reportedly sidling into the country through rather nefarious means. "He was a stowaway on a ship from England to India," says Prathyush Mandar, who is leading Bookmarking BLR, a literary walk by Gully Tours. He goes on to trace how Higginbotham's first job at the Wesleyan Book Depository led to him becoming a book magnate of sorts, with prominent historical figures including Gandhiji, C Rajagopalachari, Rabindranath Tagore and Jawaharlal Nehru visiting the store.

Bookmarking BLR, which is being held in collaboration with the upcoming Bangalore Literature Festival(BLF), is filled with trivia-laced stories such as this, including why the much-loved Koshy's has so many writers, thinkers and artists coalescing here or that the Tudor-style colonial building which now houses Hard Rock Cafe was once the Bible Society, creator of the first Kannada Bible and the genesis of many of the independent bookstores that fuel the city's literary culture.

And not just culture but also the city's identity, feels Vinay Parameshwarappa, the founder of Gully Tours, who designed this walk. "The Bengaluru identity is compassionate, curious, intellectual, accommodating and open-minded, and I think it comes from our love for literature and our literary history."

Church Street stories

Throwing light on this aspect of the city was the raison d'être of the walk, launched exactly a year ago, as part of the last edition of BLF, says Vinay, who did not have to look beyond Church Street and MG Road "since there are a bunch of things going on here." While he acknowledges that no one locality can lay claim to owning the State's or indeed the city's literary legacy – "It is also DVG Road, Basavanagudi and, of course, places outside Bengaluru like Dharwad"– this area is often associated with books, not only because of the sheer number of book stores in the area, but also other institutions related to the written word.

For instance, as part of the walk, we visit the BLR Design Centre's public reference library and archive, BLR Reads, home to "almost every book on Bengaluru," says architect and urban designer Naresh V Narasimhan, co-founder of the Mod Foundation, which runs BLR Design Centre. Among the many interesting things about Bengaluru, he says, is that it is one of the oldest cities in India, close to 500 years old, which means it is even "older than Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai as an urban centre." It has also, he adds, been a city of science and innovation for a long time, making it a perfect setting, at least in part, for a new speculative fiction graphic novel, *Matters End*. The novel, adapted from a story by Dr Gregory Benford and co-created by Naresh and comic artist Sunando C, "begins at the Bangalore airport," says Naresh, who then goes on to expand on the premise of the novel before formally launching it as part of the walk.

Book town

We leave the Mod Foundation, graphic novel in hand, and then amble down Church Street, continuing to make several more pit stops along the way even as Prathyush draws connections with these places and the larger literary history of the city. The walk ends with visits to two iconic independent book stores in the city: Mayi Gowda's Blossom Book House, which started off in the nineties as a small footpath store and now has three stores on Church Street, and The Bookworm, founded by Krishna Gowda, whose latest addition is a beautiful antiquarian space, filled with rare and antique books. "At the core of it, they love their books and they love their business," says Prathyush, as we finish the walk on the roof of Bookworm with cups of steaming coffee. "You have lived through the literary vein of Bangalore, all the stories that pump blood through them. These are the guys keeping that culture alive."

Srikrishna Ramamoorthy, one of the founders of BLF, must agree. "There is so much of book history to the city, and we thought it would be nice to showcase some of it in the run-up to the festival, as a way of engaging with our community of readers and book lovers." BLF after all, he points out, is very much a city literary festival, with 80-90 % of the audience being people from Bengaluru, unlike many other festivals, which are destination festivals. "We are a continuity of the literary tradition that exists in the city, not just of bookstores and book cafes, but also of book clubs," he says. The literature festival, which will have writers like Banu Mushtaq, Shashi Tharoor, Chetan Bhagat, Anuradha Roy and Clare Mackintosh at it this year, is "just a small cog in the larger landscape and canvas of our literary history. We are a very large reading city and that explains the numbers that show up at the festival."

The 14th edition of the Bengaluru Literature Festival will be held at Freedom Park, Bengaluru on December 6 and 7. To know more or register, log into bangaloreliteraturefestival.org.

Coffee for a cause

Araku coffee launches nanolot, a limited-edition collection of rare specialty coffee

Success story Araku's farmers at the new Commissariat Road cafe. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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"People who were falling off India's map have put India on the world map," says Manoj Kumar, the CEO of the Naandi Foundation, which has been working with the adivasi farmers of the Araku region for nearly two decades now, helping them grow specialty coffee. According to him, these oft-forgotten indigenous people who live in this naxal-affected part of India, "now have a legacy...creating luxury products in food and agriculture," says Manoj, the co-founder of Araku Coffee.

The latest feather in Araku's cap is nanolot, a limited-edition collection of rare specialty coffee, which was recently launched at the newly-opened Araku cafe on Commissariat Road, the brand's second location in the city and the sixth in the world,

While much of the coffee grown by the 1,00,000 farmers Naandi works with in this region scores 85 (a quality assessment score out of 100) at international cuppings, proving that "India can do excellence at scale", a few of the farners did even better, scoring more than 88. This resulted in several nanolots, the first batch of which was sold out in less than 24 hours.

Manoj, who plans to launch the remaining nanolots over the next couple of months, attributes the high quality of this coffee to the meticulous farming practices these farmers have adhered to. "This is a story for every Indian agricultural product to become competitive. We should not sell them as commodities, but add value and sell. Unless you add value, a farmer doesn't get more."

Fans of actor Darshan are buzzing with excitement, ready to make the opening of *Devil* a massive event, just like they did for *Sarathi* in 2011

Star in stripes

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Bengaluru is feeling the chills as temperatures dip every day, but this December is set to be hot for Sandalwood. Darshan's *Devil* will hit the screens on December 11, and will be followed by the Christmas clash between Sudeep's *Mark* and *45*, starring Upendra, Shivarajkumar and Raj B Shetty.

Theatres are being decked up with banners and cutouts of Darshan, whose fans are set to storm the early morning shows on the day of the movie's release. Despite building the festive atmosphere, ardent Darshan followers awaiting *Devil* feel a sense of incompleteness, as their star is imprisoned for the alleged murder of Chitradurga resident, Renukaswamy.

No stranger to controversies, Darshan will miss the festivities surrounding the release of his film for the second time. In 2011, *Sarathi* made it to theatres when the superstar was in jail for a case of domestic abuse filed by his wife, Vijayalakshmi. His arrest did not dent the collections of *Sarathi;* will history repeat itself?

According to industry insiders and trade experts, that does seem to be the case. "Law will take its course, but cinema will stay unaffected by events from an actor's personal life," says KV Chandrashekar of the Karnataka Film Exhibitors Association. "Fans won't pay much heed to the controversy; they will still come to watch him. Darshan is their favourite hero on the big screen, and that is all that matters to them."

Guilty measure Darshan in *Devil*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Darshan's fans have remained the major force for all his movies. "His arrest, last year, shocked us. However, we have tried to stay positive and strong. Nothing has deterred us so far and we hope for the best," says an ardent Darshan fan, who goes by the name Apathbandhava on *X* (formerly Twitter).

A cybersecurity engineer, he remembers watching *Sarathi* as an 11-year-old, clapping and whistling at a packed Prasanna theatre, Darshan's fortress in Bengaluru. "Public memory is short. His fans will ensure a grand opening, and if the film has quality content, there is no stopping *Devil,*" feels Anand, the owner of Prasanna, one of the oldest single screens of the city.

Industry insiders say a sympathy wave from a section of people could benefit *Devil*. That said, while youngsters – who form the majority of Darshan's fanbase – will turn out in large numbers, women and children might hesitate to watch his works, says a theatre owner on condition of anonymity. "His image has taken a beating with the serious allegations of criminal activity. Senior citizens and women might think twice before watching his movie."

Darshan's case has put the spotlight on the age-old debate. Should an artiste's personal life be separated from their professional work? A film buff and advocate, Akash Patil says there are plenty who love to watch movies for what they are, without getting distracted by controversies or fan wars.

"I won't say my opinion on Darshan remains the same after the incident. However, as an actor, he is someone I genuinely enjoy watching on the big screen. At the end of the day, irrespective of off-screen developments, cinema should unite stars and fans," he says.

Devil, an action drama, is directed by Prakash Veer, who has collaborated with Darshan after *Tarak* (2017). During a press conference about the movie, Prakash warded off tricky questions about Darshan's absence with a mix of straightforwardness and diplomacy.

The makers have not revealed the challenges of bringing out the film without their lead actor's involvement.

"You will know on 11th," was the director's standard response to most of the queries from reporters. If industry buzz is to be believed, Prakash and team will be all smiles next Thursday.

STEPOUT

Puppet tales

Jaaji, a musical puppet show inspired by Silvia Baumann's *Josefine,* will premiere this weekend. The show, which has been directed by Gerti Tröbinger, tells the story of a woman who forgets who she is when she falls in love.
At Shoonya - Centre for Art & Somatic Practices, Lal Bagh Road on December 6 from 6pm. Tickets, priced at ₹350, available at BookMyShow, District and at the venue.

Christmas cheer

Kiara Heartsong will hold their annual Christmas concert, Let There Be Joy. The proceeds will go towards treating children with cancer from economically challenged backgrounds.
At Jyoti Nivas College Auditorium, Koramangala on December 7, from 6pm onwards. Tickets, starting from ₹499, are available on District.

Straight from the heart

Young artist Abheek G will be showcasing The Incarnation this weekend. A debut solo exhibition by this 19-yr-old artist with special needs, the art on display comprises works he has created over the past one year, using acrylic on textured paper. As many as 27 works will be on display, inspired by his idea of Jesus Christ as radiant, compassionate and ever-present.
At Chitrakala Parishath, on December 5 and 6. Entry free

State Cabinet approves Bill to prevent promotion of hate speech, hate crimes

Bill to be tabled in the legislature during Belagavi session moots punishment for hate crime, including imprisonment up to seven years and a fine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, to effectively curb, prevent, dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and hate crimes, which cause disharmony and hatred in society.

The Bill would be tabled in the Winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi, which would commence on December 8.

Briefing presspersons on the decisions taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H. K. Patil said the Bill aimed to curb and prevent the dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and hate crimes, which cause disharmony and hatred in society, against the person or group of persons and organisations and provide punishment for such crimes.

The Bill also envisages adequate compensation to the victims. It said hate speech includes any expression which is made, published, or circulated in words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic communication in public view, with an intention to cause injury, disharmony, or feelings of enmity or hatred or ill-will against a person alive or dead, a class or group of persons, or a community to meet any prejudicial interest.

The offences are cognisable, non-bailable, and triable by the Judicial Magistrate First Class.

The prejudicial interest includes religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe.

The punishment for hate crime includes imprisonment from one to seven years and a fine of ₹50,000.

For subsequent crimes or repetitive offences, the punishment would be not less than two years, and it would be extended up to 10 years with a fine of ₹1 lakh.

The offences are cognisable, non-bailable, and triable by the Judicial Magistrate First Class.

The above provisions would not extended to any textbook, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting representation or figure in the electronic media or the publication of which is proved to be justified in the interest of the public good.

The provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 would be applied, the Bill said. The provisions of the Bill would also be applicable to oganisations or institutions.

The designated officer of the State government would be empowered to direct any service provider, intermediaries, person or entity to block or remove the hate crime materials from its domain including electronic media, the Bill said.

Farmland acquisition at Devanahalli dropped

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In tune with the assurance made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to farmers of Devanahalli, the State Cabinet on Thursday decided to drop the acquisition of 1,777 acres of farmland in 13 villages of Devanahalli taluk in Bengaluru Rural District for Aerospace Park.

The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board would not acquire the land under its provisions, and a notification would be issued to drop the land acquisition, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H. K. Patil told presspersons after the State Cabinet meeting.

A few months ago, the government had decided to drop the land acquisition following protracted resistance by farmers. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had held a meeting with representatives of farmers in Bengaluru and decided to shelve the land acquisition process. The farmers had held 1,198-day protest at Channarayapatna of the taluk opposing the acquisition of lands, which is said to be one of the long-drawn struggles by farmers in the State.

The protracted struggle by farmers of Devanahalli taluk had drawn national attention with social activists and farmers' leaders from different States extending their support to them.

Social Activist Medha Patkar too had opposed the proposed land acquisition in a letter to the Chief Minister.

Water supply project

The Cabinet has given an administrative sanction of ₹73.22 crore for the operation and maintenance of the multi-village drinking water supply project in Banawar and Gandasi blocks of Arsikere taluk in Hassan district.

The cost includes five-year operation and maintenance work for catering to drinking water needs of 530 settlements. A 22.04 MLD capacity Water Treatment Plant has been designed for the purpose, Mr Patil said.

Bill to protect people from social boycott gets nod

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved the Karnataka Protection of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025, for preventing evil practices of imposition of social boycott, social discrimination and social disabilities at various levels by caste or community panchayats or by their members.

The Bill proposed prohibition of social boycott of a person or group of persons, including their family members, and for matters connected therewith or incidental.

It said social boycott of a person or group of persons is a violation of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. It said boycotts and imposition of various punishments by extrajudicial bodies such as caste or community panchayats are still in practice in various communities in the State, resulting in great harassment of individuals or groups in leading their lives with dignity. This has adverse effects on the social life of the community, and has given rise to ill feelings and disharmony in society.

The Bill proposed to remove these evils and unconstitutional practices from society and proposed to appoint the social boycott prohibition officer. The Bill said existing laws of the State are not adequate in dealing with such evil social practices.

It said social boycott of a person or group of persons is a violation of the fundamental rights

Any person who imposes or causes to be imposed any social boycott on any member of his community would, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment which would be extended up to three years, the Bill said.

Cattle

The Cabinet approved the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle (Amendment) Bill 2025 for releasing vehicles seized during illegal transportation on indemnity bond. The Bill proposed to remove "bank guarantee" and insert the words "indemnity bond". The Bill aimed to amend the 2020 Act, which said that the seized vehicle would be released only after depositing the value of the vehicle in the bank and a bank guarantee is issued.

Govt. told to pay compensation for using private land for school without acquiring it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to pay compensation as per the existing land acquisition law for a piece of private land, which the government utilised for constructing a school building and a public road nearly 70 years ago without acquiring the land as per the manner known to law.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by H.P. Ramesh of Haradagere village, Gubbi taluk in Tumakuru district.

The court directed the government to determine compensation under the provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and pass necessary orders, in accordance with law, within three months.

Though the government admitted before the court that the school building was existing on the land in question since 1957, it pointed out that there are no records to indicate that the ancestors of the petitioner had objected use of their land for construction of school.

However, the government claimed that school building appears to have been constructed with the help of villagers and the petitioner's father appears to have voluntarily allowed his land for construction. The government hclaimed that petitioner is not entitled for compensation due to delay as there is a limitation of 12 years to raise a list under the Limitation Act, 1963. Disagreeing with government's claim, the court noted that petitioner's father too had given several representations to the authorities for compensation, but the authorities did not act on the representations.

When the State by its own hand has taken away the possession of the citizen's land, whether by force oversight or voluntarily handed over, it must meet the threshold of justification by grant of compensation, the court said.

State govt. permits poultry feed producers to procure maize directly from farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has permitted poultry feed manufacturers to directly purchase maize from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) rates for the 2025-26 kharif season, ensuring better price realisation and reducing dependence on intermediaries.

A government order to this effect was issued on Thursday.

The decision follows a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, where industry representatives were urged to procure an estimated five lakh tonnes of maize grown in the 2025-26 kharif season directly from farmers. The Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA) has agreed to begin with an initial procurement of 5,000 tonnes, offering 20% advance payment.

Industry representatives have been urged to procure five lakh tonnes of maize directly from farmers.

Procurement will be based on MSP quality parameters, with a requirement that moisture content should not exceed 12% for poultry feed suitability. Earlier, Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation (KSCMF) was directed to procure maize and supply it to distilleries. The latest order enables parallel procurement by feed manufacturers in the interest of farmers, the government stated.

State plans to attract $150 bn from mobile, electronics components manufacturing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil on Thursday instructed his officials to prepare a vision document aimed at boosting mobile and electronic product manufacturing and design in the State, with the goal of attracting investments of $150 billion.

Mr. Patil said Karnataka has significant potential not only in mobile-phone components but also in industrial and strategic electronics.

The Minister has asked his officials to study the Union government's scheme along with similar policies implemented by other States.

He met a high-level delegation, led by Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) and had an extensive discussion on these lines. The minister noted that the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT had announced an electronics components manufacturing scheme in April this year and the State Government was exploring the possibility of introducing a parallel scheme and his team was currently studying its feasibility.

M.B. Patil

"The proposal is still in the draft stage, and we welcome suggestions from ICEA," he told the delegation.

In response, Mr. Mohindroo said the Union government scheme prioritised sub-assemblies such as displays and camera modules, bare components, and essential manufacturing equipment. The programme also offered performance-linked incentives and up to 25% capital subsidy. The Centre has earmarked ₹22,900 crore for the scheme, he further said.

According to Mohindroo, until November, the Union Government has cleared 17 investment proposals worth ₹7,172 crore. These projects are expected to create 11,800 direct jobs and generate products valued at over ₹65,000 crore.

Proceedings against HDK on poll code violation stayed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed the cognisance of offence taken by a magistrate court in Bengaluru against Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in connection with a criminal case booked against him by the flying squad for allegedly making a 'false statement' about a candidate of Bengaluru Rural constituency during campaigning for Lok Sabha elections in April last year.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the interim order staying the November 15 order of taking cognisance of offence taken by the special court of magistrate for criminal cases against present and former MPs and MLAs, and all further proceedings against Mr. Kumaraswamy.

The police had filed "B" report, but the special court did not accept it and had ordered further investigation.

Though the police again filed "B" report indicating that no material found for commission of offenc, the special court rejected it and took cognisance of offence against Mr. Kumaraswamy under the Representation of People Act.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

M. SARAVANAN
Dec 3, 1939 – Dec 4, 2025

AVM Studios
AVM
Family & Staff
AVM Productions

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD ANNIVERSARY
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INBRIEF

Medina-Hyderabad flight diverted due to bomb hoax

An IndiGo flight from Medina in Saudi Arabia to Hyderabad was diverted to Ahmedabad on Thursday after the airline received a bomb threat. The aircraft, scheduled to land at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, was redirected mid-flight as a precaution. According to police, an email warning of an explosive device was sent to the airline, prompting the diversion. Police said that checks were carried out upon landing and the threat was later confirmed to be a hoax.

A.P. govt. allots 480 acres to Adani Infra data centres

The Andhra Pradesh government gave its nod for the transfer of 480 acres of land in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts to Adani Infra (India) Private Limited, a primary Notified Partner of Raiden Infotech India Pvt. Ltd. (a subsidiary of Google acting as a special purpose vehicle for its infrastructure and data centre investments in India). The land will be used for the establishment of AI data centres at a proposed investment of ₹87,520 crore.

Telangana BJP slams State govt. over Global Summit

The Telangana BJP has demanded that the Congress government disclose the expenditure incurred on the *'Telangana Rising Global Summit'*, the State's true financial position, and total loans raised in the last 19 months. At a press conference on Thursday, official spokesperson N.V. Subash accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of adding over ₹2 lakh crore in fresh debt and now attempting to 'whitewash' his government's failures through the summit.

KPCC expels Palakkad MLA after court rejects bail plea

KPCC president Sunny Joseph terms Rahul Mamkootathil's continuation in the party as ethically untenable; court dismisses MLA's primary plea that he was the victim of a political conspiracy

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Thursday expelled Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil from the party, portraying the move as a definitive attempt to draw a line under a serial sexual predation scandal that has haunted the United Democratic Front (UDF) since August.

The decision came after a district court rejected the MLA's anticipatory bail plea in a rape and coerced termination of pregnancy case registered last Thursday based on a complaint filed by a woman acquaintance of his.

In a press release, KPCC president Sunny Joseph said Mr. Mamkootathil's continuation in the party had become ethically untenable in the wake of accusations of serial sexual predation. The onus was on Mr. Mamkootathil to decide whether he should resign as MLA, he added.

The KPCC had suspended Mr. Mamkootathil in August following a series of sexual misconduct accusations. The scandal prompted Mr. Mamkootathil to withdraw briefly from public life.

Yuva Morcha workers in Palakkad during a protest march last week, against MLA Rahul Mamkoottathil. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Bail plea rejected

Meanwhile, Principal Sessions Judge, Thiruvananthapuram, S. Nazeera on Thursday rejected an anticipatory bail plea filed by Mr. Mamkootathil in a rape and coerced termination of pregnancy case .

Ms. Nazeera has yet to promulgate a formal order and reportedly told the closed court that she had dismissed the petition, opening the way for Mr. Mamkootathil's possible arrest.

Mr. Mamkootathil's lawyers signalled that they will likely move the High Court seeking interim protection from arrest till the court rules on the MLA's anticipatory bail plea.

The court, which conducted the proceedings in camera, reportedly dismissed Mr. Mamkootathil's primary plea that he was the victim of a political conspiracy and that his relationship with the complainant was consensual.

The prosecution argued that the investigation was at a nascent stage. If enlarged on bail, the accused could jeopardise the investigation.

High Command will accept KPCC action on Mamkootathil: Venugopal

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

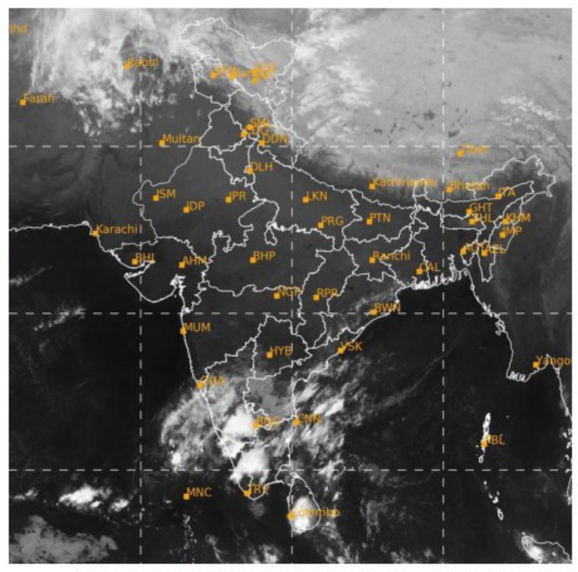
Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal on Thursday said the All India Congress Committee would stand by the action taken by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) in connection with the controversy surrounding Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil.

"What we want is an impartial process. Whenever allegations were raised against a public representative, it was the Congress that took exemplary action. The email complaint was forwarded directly to the KPCC president, who in turn referred it to the State Police Chief. We did not attempt to shield anyone," he said.

KPCC president Sunny Joseph told the media that the decision to oust Mr Mamkootathil was unanimous. He contended that this would not affect Congress' poll prospects. While Mr. Mamkootathil's actions embarrassed the party, the stance taken by the party, he said, lent it greater credibility among the people.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall and thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Jharkhand. Fog likely at isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.8	13.0	Kozhikode	—	33.3	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	29.4	17.6	Kurnool	—	29.8	23.4
Aizawl	—	26.6	14.5	Lucknow	—	24.3	9.1
Allahabad	—	26.0	12.4	Madurai	—	32.0	23.7
Bengaluru	—	27.4	20.1	Mangaluru	—	32.8	23.1
Bhopal	—	24.8	11.6	Mumbai	—	33.5	20.7
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	15.8	Mysuru	—	29.2	20.0
Chandigarh	—	22.3	6.3	New Delhi	—	23.1	5.6
Chennai	13.4	28.0	23.0	Patna	—	25.8	14.6
Coimbatore	—	31.0	22.7	Port Blair	—	30.0	21.6
Dehradun	—	24.4	7.2	Puducherry	—	29.4	23.3
Gangtok	—	17.6	8.4	Pune	—	29.9	17.1
Goa	—	33.6	23.8	Raipur	—	28.7	13.3
Guwahati	—	27.4	15.5	Ranchi	—	23.4	10.8
Hubballi	—	28.0	19.0	Shillong	—	19.0	7.6
Hyderabad	—	28.7	21.5	Shimla	—	18.0	7.5
Imphal	—	24.6	11.7	Srinagar	—	12.6	-4.0
Jaipur	—	24.9	10.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	23.8
Kochi	3	30.6	24.6	Tiruchi	—	31.3	23.6
Kohima	—	18.3	7.0	Vijayawada	1	30.4	22.5
Kolkata	—	26.7	15.1	Visakhapatnam	—	27.7	22.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	..61	.84	...133	...162	
Bengaluru	...5	..15	105	64	...117	
Chennai	.16	..16	.44	33	74	
Delhi	.18	..75	127	...366	...280	
Hyderabad	.19	..15	.40	...144	...113	
Kolkata	...7	..76	.53	...306	...221	
Lucknow	...9	..40	.27	...161	...185	
Mumbai	.10	..75	.21	...218	...146	
Pune	.12	106	100	...309	...243	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	.45	.....—	.....—	.....—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 336 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sept. 13 to be 'Women Employees' Day' in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday assured women employees that the State government will declare September 13 as "Women Employees' Day" in recognition of their contribution in the State's administration. He was addressing the women's conference organised by the Akhila Karnataka Rajya Sarkari Mahila Noukarara Sangha in Bengaluru.

The government has approved one-day paid menstrual leave per month for women employees, he said. Discussions are also under way to provide space for the association's office at Bal Bhavan.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to eliminating gender discrimination, the Chief Minister said women officials were serving on a par with their male counterparts across departments. "Our government is committed to equal treatment and inclusivity," he said.

He emphasised the need to encourage scientific temper and rational thinking among children and urged women to take the lead in dispelling superstitions and blind beliefs in society. He called upon parents and teachers to nurture a progressive mindset. He noted that despite advances in literacy since Independence from 10-12% then to nearly 78% today, even educated individuals often remained influenced by superstition. "Only when we cultivate rational thinking can we build a healthy, egalitarian society," he said.

Practical learning

Field trip: Students look at native Punganur cows on the inaugural day of the four-day Visakha Organic Mela at the AU Engineering College Grounds in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. K.R. DEEPAK

Devaswom officials denied bail in Sabarimala gold case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has denied anticipatory bail to S. Sreekumar, former administrative officer of Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) and also to S. Jayasree, former secretary of the board, in the case pertaining to the alleged misappropriation of gold from the Sabarimala temple.

While Mr. Sreekumar had been arraigned as the sixth accused, Ms. Jayasree was the fourth accused in the case registered in this connection by the Crime Branch. The duo had earlier been granted interim protection from arrest.

Kerala High Court

The case is now being probed by a Special Investigation Team.

Stating that it was shocked at the events, the court observed that a perusal of prosecution records showed that the allegations were serious and mind-blowing, since the 'misappropriation' happened in a sacred place - the Sabarimala Sannidhanam.

While denying anticipatory bail to Ms. Jayasree, the court said that her role is well-made-out prima facie and that she could not wriggle out from prosecution. Denying the same to Mr. Sreekumar, the court said that as per the Devaswom board manual, it was his duty to check malpractices in the institution and to have custody of the board's valuables. He had signed a mahazar wherein the 12 Dwarapalaka plates were stated as made of copper, although they were gold-cladded.

Kerala Governor gives names of two V-C picks to apex court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar conveyed to the Supreme Court on Thursday his preference for the appointments of Dr. Ciza Thomas and Dr. Priya Chandran as Vice Chancellors of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University and the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology, respectively.

Governor Arlekar said he preferred both names for the respective posts, though Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had objected to Ms. Thomas.

The Governor said the Chief Minister's objection to Ms. Thomas was based merely on news reports and not on records.

"On an independent assessment of the performance of Dr. Ciza Thomas as the Vice Chancellor of two universities during the past years for short stints, the Chancellor is fully satisfied and convinced of her performance of the duties entrusted to her with true dedication and honesty," an affidavit highlighted.

The Governor, who is the Chancellor of the two State-run universities, said he had based his decision solely on the fact that both names were commonly recommended by the two separate search committees chaired by former Supreme Court judge, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia.

The Governor said his decision-making process had been handicapped because he had not received any documents regarding the credentials of the candidates.

The case is scheduled to be taken up before a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala on December 5.

The Supreme Court had intervened on August 18 to appoint Justice (retired) Sudhanshu Dhulia to head a search-cum-selection committee to recommend names for appointment as Vice Chancellors of the two universities. The court had ordered that the shortlisted names, endorsed by Justice Dhulia, be placed before the Chief Minister for his consideration. The August 18 order had entitled the Chief Minister to recommend to the Governor the shortlisted names in order of preference.

New report maps India's DPI 2.0 future

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The UPI remains the most visible face of India's digital public infrastructure, and even as its year-on-year expansion slows, the platform continues to operate at a scale unmatched globally.

As of August 2025, the UPI recorded 20008.31 million transactions worth ₹2485472.91 crore, pointing out how deeply the payment system has fused into the country's economic and social routines. This extraordinary monthly load forms the backdrop for a new assessment of India's DPI journey released on Thursday by the Centre for Digital Public Goods (CDPG) at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), in collaboration with Protean eGov Technologies.

Titled 'State of DPI in India, 2025,' the report is the first comprehensive attempt to map how the building blocks of India's digital ecosystem such as payments, identity, data exchanges, and public platforms, have matured, where they are stagnating, and where gaps have widened. Authors of the study note that India's DPI stack, once characterised by rapid expansion, has now entered a consolidation phase. High-usage systems like UPI and FASTag are stabilising, while platforms such as DigiLocker, ONDC, and Account Aggregator are still battling uneven adoption, regulatory friction, and capacity constraints across states.

The report highlights that the strength of India's DPI lies not only in its scale but in its interoperability, a principle that allowed UPI, Aadhaar, and the Unified Health Interface to cut across bank systems, states, and departments. However, it warns that this interoperability cannot be taken for granted as several states continue to lag in onboarding government departments to digital workflows, resulting in fragmented user experiences and delays in service delivery.

One of the key findings is the uneven maturity of DPI across sectors. While financial DPI has achieved near-universal penetration, digital skilling, health records, education platforms, and municipal services show wide regional disparities.

The report also points to the rising importance of trust, safety, and accountability in DPI operations. With cyber-fraud, misinformation, and privacy concerns becoming more visible, especially in payment and data-sharing ecosystems, the authors argue that India's next phase of DPI growth must move beyond scale to focus on reliability, transparency, and predictable service quality. They recommend clearer grievance redressal frameworks, standardised protocols for data sharing, stronger public communication during system outages, and independent performance audits.

For policymakers, the study provides a roadmap for what it calls "DPI 2.0," a shift from infrastructure creation to user-centric governance. This includes enabling smaller private players to build atop public rails, and ensuring State governments have the Budget and technical support to implement digital platforms uniformly.

Cyber crackdown

Tackling digital arrest scams also needs global action

The Supreme Court's direction to the CBI to conduct a pan-India investigation into cyber-crimes, and "digital arrest" scams in particular, might seem extraordinary, as such directions normally require State government consent. But by doing so, the Court has acknowledged the severity of the menace that transcends State jurisdictions and boundaries. The Court's prioritisation of the "digital arrest" scam – fraudsters impersonate police or government officials in a video call, falsely accuse victims of crimes, and pressure them to transfer money to avoid arrest – is fully warranted. The government has estimated that this scam, which often targets senior citizens, has resulted in losses exceeding ₹3,000 crore. The Court has asked the CBI to target not just the scammers but also banking officials who facilitate the creation of "mule" accounts. This is necessary as these scams depend on a malleable financial architecture and therefore require the intervention of agencies such as the RBI, which has also been instructed by the Court to employ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to trace the "layering" of proceeds through multiple accounts. The Court has also asked online intermediaries to cooperate with the CBI, invoking the IT Rules 2021. The Court is also right in asking the CBI to investigate other scams such as investment schemes and part-time job scams, subsequently.

The severity of cyber frauds, as National Crime Records Bureau data indicate, has risen significantly. However, while the judiciary and domestic policing can address the symptoms within India, the problem has another dimension – it is also transnational. The burgeoning of "scam centres" – compounds where trafficked workers, unable to escape due to violence, confiscated documents or debt bondage, are forced to run online fraud operations – in conflict-ridden zones of Southeast Asia suggests that the solution requires robust international diplomacy. The U.S., for instance, has established a Scam Center Strike Force to tackle the issue. Furthermore, Myanmar remains a hotbed for these operations, primarily because the illegally ruling junta benefits from taxing the proceeds of such crimes. Tackling this requires moving beyond bilateral requests. New Delhi must act in cohesion with ASEAN and the UN to sanction the illegal regime and cut off the financial lifelines of these modern-day slavery sweatshops. Domestically, the battle must also be fought on the grounds of digital literacy and capacity. As daily life and governance become increasingly digitised, there remains a glaring deficit in cyber awareness among the population. States, local administrations, and the RBI must launch widespread awareness campaigns. Simultaneously, there is an urgent need to upgrade the digital capabilities of State police.

Freeze and thaw

Parliament should not be reduced to a political stage

The winter session of Parliament, that began on December 1, will have 15 sittings over a period of 19 days, and will conclude on December 19. The government maintains that it is willing to discuss any issue, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has warned that Parliament should not be used for theatrics. The Opposition has pointed out that this is one of the shortest ever winter sessions, and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has said that the government excludes him from the country's diplomatic engagements with foreign dignitaries, which is a deviation from the convention. Though there is no notable improvement in the hostile relationship between the government and the Opposition, the Vice-President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan, is expected to ease some tension, in his role as Rajya Sabha Chairman. The government has lined up an ambitious legislative agenda, which has considerable political ramifications, with a number of 14 Bills in total. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, is one major piece of legislation that, as its Hindi title suggests, seeks to simplify the criminal justice system. The Higher Education Commission of India Bill, 2025, seeks to change the structure of higher education regulators such as the UGC. The Centre's unilateralism in the sector remains a bone of contention with States, and those issues are likely to be raised by the Opposition. The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, the Atomic Energy Bill, and the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill are some of the items on the legislative agenda. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the Health Security se National Security Cess Bill in the session, which repackages an ongoing cess on tobacco products.

Both Houses are also scheduled to discuss a motion on electoral reforms, in the background of the SIR of electoral rolls and debate the national song Vande Mataram to mark the 150th year of its composition. The SIR debate is expected to see the divergent views of the BJP and the Opposition with regard to electoral reforms. For the ruling party, enforcing a countrywide synchronised election schedule is a priority, while the Opposition is agitated over suspected malpractices in the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of the polls. The Opposition has also sought debates on the national security situation after the Delhi blasts, farmers' problems in the background of concluded and ongoing trade negotiations, price rise, air pollution and use of federal agencies against political opponents. Both sides should use the session as an opportunity to reduce disagreements and clarify issues of governance.

New Delhi's relative isolation, India's tryst with terror

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The current period might well be viewed, or termed, as India's moment of reckoning. For one, India today – and despite its highly regarded diplomatic skills – increasingly appears more like an 'outlier' than a major player in world affairs. It has been virtually sitting on the sidelines when it comes to issues involving peace and order in different regions of the globe, especially in West Asia and Europe. It is also a virtual onlooker as far as the emerging situation in the Indo-Pacific is concerned. Seldom indeed has India faced a situation of this kind.

If this was not bad enough, the entire South Asian region in which India is situated, appears to be in turmoil at present. Afghanistan and Nepal are among the countries on India's periphery that appear to be most affected, but from the Maldives to Myanmar and further afield, India can hardly count on many friends and allies. This is a frightening scenario given that each day produces a range of new threats, including cyber.

Hostility from west to east

Currently, India has to contend with two openly hostile powers on its western and eastern flanks – Pakistan and Bangladesh, respectively. In the case of Pakistan, the threat level has been going up steadily, with a growing cacophony of voices being heard in that country to teach India a proper lesson. What is aggravating the situation further is the approval of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill by Pakistan's Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Senate and National Assembly, which has altered the precarious balance between civil and military authority in that country.

Also, a recent amendment has introduced the concept of a new 'Chief of Defence Forces', elevating Field Marshal Asim Munir as the nation's military supremo, and the commander-in-chief of all three services, having sole control over Pakistan's nuclear assets. The amendment has invested Field Marshal Munir with absolute authority to deal with enemies (such as India), removing the fig leaf of parliamentary restraint and posing a real threat to India on its western flank. Military dictatorships in Pakistan, as elsewhere, have traditionally proved to be extremely hostile to a democratic India, and the rise and rise of Field Marshal Asim Munir, with unfettered authority, represents a significant and direct threat to a democratic India.

That such concerns are well merited, and that military dictators tend to be short sighted, is well known. Concentration of power encourages strategic adventurism. This, in turn, increases the chances of miscalculation in crises. Also, and in keeping with the general trend among military regimes, there is likely to be a tendency to turn local conflicts into spheres of proxy competition and inter-state confrontation. Hence, prospects of a lasting peace with Pakistan are unlikely. On the other hand, the risk of conflict has enhanced significantly. Thus, it would be wise for India not to ignore the possibility of yet another conflict with Pakistan in the near future and be prepared for all eventualities. This may as yet be in the realm of speculation, but the danger must not be ignored.

> The country is having to deal with being an onlooker in world affairs, and also the fault lines in its multi-cultural, multi-religious society

India's Pakistan problem is compounded by the fact that the interim government in Bangladesh to India's east, is proving unfriendly, if not openly hostile, to it. To add to India's discomfiture, Bangladesh is currently displaying a willingness to establish warmer relations with Pakistan. In a first, a Pakistan navy ship visited Bangladesh after almost a half-a-century and this is expected to help Pakistan re-establish its presence in the Bay of Bengal. This has serious security implications for India.

Hence, a mixture of ideological posturing and military governance on India's western and eastern flanks has raised diplomatic temperatures across the region. It could have serious and adverse consequences, if not properly handled. Extreme vigilance and careful manoeuvring is called for.

The surfacing of 'urban terror'

Compounding India's problems at this time is the return of 'urban terror' after a gap of several years, though in a different mould, and by a whole new set of indigenous actors. It is only fair to think that in the highly disparate world that we live in, and in the circumstances prevailing today, terror is merely a hand's length away from everyday existence. Yet, till recently, urban terrorism on a significant scale had taken a back seat after the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai sponsored by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in collusion with elements of the Pakistan military establishment.

During the past two decades, sporadic terror attacks had been reported in certain urban pockets, but the latest module of urban terror – extending from Jammu and Kashmir to Faridabad and Delhi, and involving medical practitioners and doctors (most of whom had connections to the Al-Falah university, Faridabad, Haryana) reveals a new chapter in India's tryst with terrorism.

The latest terror module, comprising almost only medical practitioners, draws inspiration from, and harps back to the destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya (in 1992). It fundamentally differs from the terror attacks witnessed in Mumbai (and certain other pockets) during 1992-1993 in the wake of the Babri Masjid demolition, which were mainly carried out by 'lumpen' elements.

That more than three decades after the destruction of the Babri Masjid, terror still finds supporters and that too among the educated elite. That is it more so among groups, such as doctors, is highly disturbing. It reveals that religious terrorism is not only alive but still active.

Also, its newest disciples represent some of the best and brightest elements of a community. This is a quantitative and qualitative leap as far as the annals of terror are concerned.

Details of the terror module, which extends from Srinagar to Faridabad to Delhi, have been widely aired. But what should cause more serious and deep concern is that they could accumulate nearly 3,000 kilograms of explosive material and also safely hide it in two houses. Further, it is alarming that a car laden with explosives could escape the police dragnet around India's capital city, Delhi, and trigger an explosion in the vicinity of Red Fort in the heart of Delhi. This reveals either extremely careful planning at one level, or total ineptness on the part of the authorities, on another. Worse still, while the 1993 terror explosions were carried out by 'lumpen elements' and the 2008 Mumbai attacks were directly sponsored by Pakistan, the latest incidents were of an entirely different character.

These were organised by a group of medical professionals, some of whom were perhaps not even born when the destruction of the Babri Masjid took place, revealing a major fault line in India's multi-cultural, multi-religious society. Far more than the details of the terror module that are being revealed through painstaking investigation, it is this aspect, and the aspect of revenge, which has been the catalyst for some of the best and brightest in a community, which should be seen as a blot on India's civilisational journey and progress.

The moot point is whether the latest incident represents mere disenchantment and anger against the nation state, or something more fundamental. It has been India's belief, and as claimed by the Union Home Minister in Parliament, that no local had joined a terrorist group in Jammu and Kashmir in recent times.

This myth has been exploded. Investigations have revealed that this is an entirely local terrorist module, which had been using encrypted channels for indoctrination, coordination, fund movements and logistics. Another aspect is that funds were being raised by professional and academic networks under the guise of social/charitable causes. There are other reports that the groups were in touch with elements in Pakistan. The links of the group also seem to extend beyond Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

The need for vigil

Given the new perilous external dimension to India's security, a hostile Pakistan and Bangladesh on its western and eastern borders, and the fact that much of West and South Asia are in turmoil, India needs to be careful that the situation does not lead to the fostering of religious fascism on a more extended scale. Given India's tolerance and acceptance of disparate religious beliefs, this may seem unlikely. But eternal vigilance (or diligence) is the price that needs to be paid to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate further, necessitating cause for alarm.

A day to pause and come down to earth

A.N. Ganeshamurthy

is Emeritus Scientist, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, former Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, and former Head, Department of Soil Science, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru

Every year on December 5, the world pauses to acknowledge one of the most overlooked foundations of human civilisation: soil. World Soil Day, established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, is more than an environmental observance. It is a reminder of the silent and living resource that sustains life. For 2025, the theme, "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities", shifts the focus from the rural farmland to the concrete jungle, highlighting a critical truth – the ground beneath our cities is not mere dirt, but a dynamic ally in building a resilient urban future.

With over 56% of the global population now living in cities, urban environments are confronting unprecedented challenges, from food insecurity and pollution to devastating flooding and extreme heat. At the heart of the solution to these issues lies an often-forgotten ally: urban soil.

An unsung hero

When we think of soil, we picture farms. But our urban soils are silent, unsung heroes. They are living filters, natural sponges and carbon sinks that exist right beneath our parks, street trees and community gardens. Their health is directly linked to the resilience and well-being of our urban populations. A teaspoon of healthy soil contains more organisms than there are people on earth, and this vibrant ecosystem performs extraordinary services. These include: first, combating climate change and extreme heat – urban areas often become "heat islands", several degrees warmer than their surroundings. Healthy soils, especially when covered with vegetation, absorb heat, sequester atmospheric carbon, and act as natural air conditioners in parks, community gardens, and green medians.

> World Soil Day is a reminder of the need to look after a life-sustaining and silent resource — soil

Second, preventing floods and managing water – as climate change intensifies rainfall, cities paved with concrete surfacing face frequent flooding. Healthy soil is a city's first line of defence, acting like a sponge to absorb rainfall, filter it, and replenish groundwater supplies, unlike impermeable surfaces.

Third, supporting urban food systems and biodiversity – the rise of urban agriculture, from rooftop farms to backyard plots, relies entirely on fertile soil, shortening food chains and enhancing local resilience. These soil-based habitats also support a web of life, from earthworms and microbes to pollinators, which are essential for decomposition and plant growth.

Fourth, enhancing mental and physical well-being – contact with nature, or "Vitamin N," in urban green spaces has been proven to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. Gardening and time spent in green, soil-rich environments encourage physical activity and improve mental health. Despite its immense value, urban soil is among the most degraded natural resources. The FAO notes that nearly a third of the world's soils are degraded, a problem magnified in cities. Urban soils face contamination from industrial waste, severe compaction from construction, loss of organic matter, and "sealing" by concrete and asphalt, which suffocates soil life. These pressures weaken plant growth, threaten food safety, and cripple the very ecosystems that make cities livable, making the theme of 2025 an urgent call to action.

A blueprint for action

The "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities" campaign is a blueprint for transforming our urban landscapes. It calls on municipal governments, planners, community groups, and every resident to become stewards of the ground beneath them. Key actions include first, urban soil restoration and protection. Cities must prioritise rehabilitating degraded land through compost addition, soil testing and organic amendments. Limiting further soil sealing from new construction is equally critical to protect this non-renewable resource.

Second, promoting green infrastructure. We must replace concrete with soil-based solutions wherever possible. Soils under parks, rain gardens, and tree belts are not just aesthetic; they are vital infrastructure that reduces flooding and heat stress.

Third, championing urban agriculture. Community and backyard gardens are powerful tools for improving soil health while providing fresh food, recreation and social bonding. The theme encourages everyone to plant, even in containers on a balcony.

Fourth, embracing responsible soil management. This involves adopting eco-friendly practices such as reducing chemical fertilizers, minimising pesticide use, planting native species, and protecting topsoil with mulching.

Fifth, boosting soil literacy and composting. Schools are encouraged to host hands-on soil tests and workshops. Meanwhile, every household can contribute to this by composting kitchen waste, and turning organic residues into nutrient-rich food for urban soil.

The basis of healthy cities

On December 5 this year, the message is clear. The foundation of a resilient city is not just steel and concrete. It is living, breathing soil. By caring for the ground beneath our feet, we directly safeguard our cities, our health, and our shared future. Healthy cities depend on healthy soils, and healthy soils depend on informed, engaged communities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Digital trust

The Government's move to walk back from its directions to mobile phone manufacturers, ordering them to install a government app, highlights two issues. The first is citizen anxiety and the second is about the concerns raised by phone manufacturers, who warned that mandatory pre-loading could compromise user choice, add technical burdens, and set a troubling precedent. This is a moment that offers India a chance to strengthen its privacy framework. Countries such as Estonia have systems that show what transparent, accountable digital systems can achieve — citizens can see who accessed their data and why, with strict penalties for misuse. Ultimately, trust will grow only when policies are consultative, purpose-driven, and backed by strong safeguards. With accountability, digital initiatives can empower citizens without compromising privacy.

Merlin Alisha,
Bengaluru

Flight chaos

The recent mass cancellations of hundreds of flights by India's largest private airline have highlighted serious flaws in operational planning. Travellers, including those on business and urgent personal trips, faced confusion and financial loss. While the airline has cited technical, regulatory and weather challenges, repeated disruptions suggest a deeper management issue. Should not a reputed carrier ensure contingency measures to safeguard its passengers? Moreover, why is customer communication still inconsistent, leaving passengers frustrated? The public expects reliability, accountability and transparency, clear guidelines and compensation policies. In a service-driven industry, airlines must take responsibility rather than leaving travellers to face acute distress.

Mohammad Hasnain,
Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Do we need to change how cities are governed in India?

Anant Maringanti

Director of Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change at the University of Minnesota

T.R. Raghunandan

Former IAS officer and a consultant on decentralisation and planning

PARLEY

The rise of Zohran Mamdani as the Mayor of New York City in the United States has brought focus to the lack of visibility of similarly elected civic officials in Indian cities. Why do citizens in urban areas of India have no elected official to turn to in times of crisis or to help improve civic infrastructure and amenities? The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the governing civic body of Mumbai, is set to have elections in 2026 after several years. In Telangana, 27 municipalities are being merged into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been divided into five corporations. Will these measures help improve governance of cities? Do we need to change how cities are governed in India? T.R. Raghunandan and Anant Maringanti discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **Serish Nanisetti**. Edited Excerpts:

Why is there no substantial role for Mayors in major cities in India? Why are they so invisible?

Anant Maringanti: There are structural issues and historical reasons. We have always been a largely rural economy, so the urban is not that visible (to policymakers). But structurally, if you just look at the governance question, who is the most powerful person controlling city affairs in India? It is the Chief Minister. This was not always the case until at least the 1960s. Mayors were a lot more visible during the Independence struggle. We have had a number of politicians who were first city Mayors and then became national-level politicians. The entire political system now is organised around State Assemblies, so decisions about cities are taken in the Chief Minister's *peshi* (office), not in the Mayor's office.

T.R. Raghunandan: Urban local government in India has a longer history than the U.S. itself. The oldest municipality in South Asia was the Madras Municipality, which was created in the 17th century. It was a nominated body. And at that time, the presidency towns had fairly empowered municipalities. However, paradoxically, after the 73rd and 74th Amendments (establishing a framework for local self-governance in rural and urban India, respectively), the situation deteriorated, even though municipalities and corporations were constitutionalised. This happened due to severe political competition, but also because of the apathy of citizens. Democratic decentralisation in India has been a supply-driven reform measure; it has not been demanded by the people. There have been no parliamentary elections or State elections that have been fought on the issue of whether municipal elections are held, or on empowering municipalities.

The Chickpet market in Bengaluru. AFP

Is there a way where we can make the governance of Indian cities more responsive?

TRR: There is no way if the people do not demand it. Today, in Bengaluru, we haven't had (civic body) elections for almost 4-5 years. There is no recognition of the local government as a government. Sadly, I believe that the people of India, and particularly urban people, are fairly ignorant about the nitty-gritties of government. I was once aghast when a respected IT entrepreneur in Benglauru said that the Prime Minister should take over the governance of the city. Even a 7th standard civics student ought to know that there are three levels of government, and that there are spheres of governance. Politics responds to the demands of the people. If there was a demand from the people that local governments and local corporations be strengthened, then they will be made strong.

AM: We need to keep two things in mind. One is that this is less about making the Mayor more powerful and more about cutting back the power of the Chief Minister's Office. Second, we need to acknowledge that in many States, MLAs and MPs are ex-officio members of the municipalities, and that essentially means that corporators and Mayors become subordinates to their bigger political party bosses. What do municipalities do in India? Their revenue base is very small and their actual functions are also very limited. Most of the work is done by somebody else (such as bureaucrats and state-run agencies). So it is less about fixing the role of the Mayor than about fixing the way in which the city is governed. I think we believed that the 74th Constitution Amendment would have fixed this. It has failed to do so.

> The real issue is that whatever you do, if the Chief Minister's office is controlling what happens in the city and if your IAS officer is the more powerful person, then you will never have the Mayor or the municipal system becoming active at all.
> **ANANT MARINGANTI**

Is having a financially empowered, democratically elected autonomous Mayor a way of improving governance of cities?

AM: We need to figure out how to decentralise financial allocations. For example, even today, ward offices often struggle to secure the funds they need. In the 1980s, in Hyderabad or Bombay, power was devolved to the ward level by transferring monies. If they don't give money, even within the municipal budgets, and if you don't have local-level decision-making structures, it's just not going to happen. As I said, the idea that the 74th Constitution Amendment would fix this, failed. And the reason for that is that the 74th Amendment ignored and bypassed the political reality. It was introduced as if the political reality doesn't exist. So what we need to do to make this better is to start looking at the political reality of our cities and figure out how to redesign things in each city, in each State.

TRR: Political realities can change dramatically. You can see how politicians are able to whip up passions in both India and in the U.S. Certain things that we would never have thought thinkable, and which violate the Constitution, are being now demanded by the public. There are many hate messages, there is communalism, etc... and these are being pushed forward as political agendas. The same kind of passion is not there to push for a local government.

Bengaluru is now being split into five corporations. Hyderabad is merging many civic bodies under one umbrella. So one is trying to unify into a big bloc, another is trying to divide into five manageable blocs. What do you feel about this?

TRR: They are all malafide justifications only meant to create a fait accompli so that elections can be postponed. Every time Bengaluru has come up for an election, the government at that point develops a great idea of either dividing or integrating the municipal corporation. The last municipal elections were postponed partly because of plans to expand the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike into the BBMP. Now, they are being postponed because politicians have discovered that the best way to neutralise courts, which would otherwise be outraged and enforce conduct of elections, is to play some game with delimitation. Delhi is another huge disaster, because you should have had a separate dispensation for Delhi, because there is no point in having a Delhi State-like structure with the Chief Minister, and then in that same space compress a municipal system. Because, essentially, the Delhi Chief Minister could be the Mayor of Delhi, right? So, the political space should have been decluttered, but what happened there was that the government did it with purely malafide intentions to harass the then Chief Minister. And look at what is happening now. It is still a disaster. The Supreme Court passed a confusing order with respect to the division of powers between the Union government and the Delhi government, and when a clarification to that was sought, the Court kept postponing the case. Then the government changed, and the new government has withdrawn the case.

AM: It doesn't matter whether you divide the city into five municipalities or three municipalities or you add 20 more municipalities. The real issue is that whatever you do, if the Chief Minister's office is controlling what happens in the city and if your IAS officer is the more powerful person, then you will never have the Mayor or the municipal system becoming active at all. This is basically territory management by the Chief Minister's office or in a much broader way, by the Assembly. This is not so much about governance and ease of governance. The expansion and contraction and division and subdivision is happening because of other considerations.

You don't have a clear delineation of who is supposed to be doing what. Everything is controlled by larger, complicated mechanisms. That is the thing that we need to get right. Fixing the money problem is one part; fixing the people who are going to be in power for each institution is key. It is important that we do something about our parastatals. They should not become so big and powerful and become autonomous agencies. These are all things that need to be fixed for the Mayor to become visible.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Celebrating fisherwomen without hearing their voices

A recent event in Mumbai highlighted how deeply the gender imbalance persists, even in spaces meant to celebrate women

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

On November 5, I travelled to Khar danda, a fishing settlement in the northern part of Bandra in Mumbai, to witness the celebration of the first International Fisherwomen's Day. A post by the World Forum of Fisher People, announcing the celebration of the day, read, "For the first time ever, the world will celebrate International Fisherwomen's Day. Join us for a powerful social media campaign themed 'Every wave carries her labour, every shore her claim', honouring the fisherwomen who have worked in the shadows for far too long. From rivers to seas, from valleys to coasts – fisherwomen are rising to demand the recognition and equal rights they have been denied."

The event had been jointly organised by the World Forum for Fisher Peoples, the National Fishworkers' Forum, the Maharashtra Macchhimar Kruti Samiti, and the Daryawardi Mahila Sangh, to highlight fisherwomen's roles, struggles, and rights. The event did not receive as much publicity as other events of fisherfolk. Apart from me, only one woman photojournalist had turned up. Journalists always look for stories. Perhaps some of those who knew of the event but did not attend it assumed that there was not much of a story there.

Though women constitute nearly half of the employed fisheries' workforce globally, fisheries, traditionally, has been a male-dominated sector. Indian fisherwomen account for about 44% of the total fisher population, according to the government. They form a workforce of more than 1.24 crore in fisheries and handle the bulk of pre- and post-catch work. Fisherwomen are mostly involved in various fish-harvesting activities, small-scale near-shore fishing, seaweed cultivation, fish cleaning, drying, salting, and industrial processing of fish. Yet their contributions are not recognised and their incomes are not commensurate with the work they put in.

There were 16 people on the dais to celebrate the first International Fisherwomen's Day event in Mumbai. But only four of them were women and only one of them spoke of the daily struggles of fisherwomen and the humiliations they face. She described her exhausting routine, the abuse she faces at the fish market, the denial of her agency by men who want to sell in the market, and her worry that her children had failed to recognise the hardships their parents endured. "Instead, they serve the very builder lobbies that are trying to seize our lands," she said. The woman was feisty and loud, and her words resonated with the audience. Other women cheered, clapped, nodded vigorously, and supported her.

The remaining three fisherwomen spoke of the lives of fishing communities in general. They said they were being marginalised in a fast-expanding city that viewed the coasts as prime property for infrastructure projects.

None of the fishermen leaders on stage spoke of the struggles of fisherwomen. They talked of all that they had done to mobilise fisher communities. They spoke authoritatively of political struggles and of negotiations with different stakeholders. They gave the impression that they were the ones fighting on the forefront, and called for women's support. Off stage, they felicitated the women.

When the event came to a close, one of the female organisers rued, "In a patriarchal set-up, women's leadership is neither encouraged, nor appreciated." I know the organiser: she has been instrumental in working for the causes of fisherfolk and in mobilising fisherwomen for decades. Yet, she felt marginalised, she said. She went on to blame herself for not being able to bring women's voices to the forefront. The bitterness was evident in her tone, but she feared verbalising it on stage. The event highlighted how deeply the gender imbalance persists, even in spaces meant to celebrate women.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Taking to the skies

The Indian Navy's MiG-29 multirole fighter aircraft takes off from the INS Vikrant aircraft carrier during a Navy Day operational demonstration off the coast of Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 5, 1975

Non-life cover to the poor: GIC scheme

Madras, Dec. 4: The General Insurance Corporation of India was examining a scheme for providing non-life cover to the lower stata of society, Mr. G.V. Kapadia, Chairman, said here to-day.

Inaugurating a three-day Divisional Managers' Conference of the Southern Region at Hotel Chola, Mr. Kapadia said the scheme would be a starting point for the introduction of schemes to provide cover like personal accident and sickness.

He added that the scope for expansion of non-life business in India was unlimited. The per capita non-life premium was less than Rs. 5. Even a small country like Japan completed last year twice the non-life premium compared to India. The percentage of non-life premium to the Gross National Product in India was less than one per cent and was not commensurate with the progress made in the GNP. Mr. Kapadia said the results achieved by the insurance industry during the 'Clearance Fortnight' (August 1 to 14), were encouraging in terms of claims settled and commissions distributed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 5, 1925

Broadcasting in India

Westminster, Nov. 12: Within the space of five years India and Ceylon will probably be equipped with ten powerful broadcasting stations. So said Captain John E. Monina of Burndept Wireless in the course of an interview with Press representatives yesterday. "Behind the scheme are four great English wireless companies," remarked the Captain. "We also hope to secure further capital on the spot. Already application for the requisite licences has been made to the Government of India."

From Page One

SC tells States to replace distressed BLOs for SIR

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, also for the EC, submitted that 90% of forms had been distributed in Tamil Nadu and 85% in Uttar Pradesh, where BLO deaths were reported. There were, on average, more than two lakh booth level agents of political parties and nearly 65,000 BLOs deployed in Tamil Nadu alone.

'Genuine concern'

Countering them, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for petitioners from Kerala and West Bengal, urged the court to recognise the cause of BLOs as a "genuine concern".

"Why does the EC want SIR to be completed in just two months? The election in Uttar Pradesh is in 2027. Still, they want it done in two months, when there is a whole year ahead... They claim BLOs have uploaded 90% of the forms. Who is going to cross-check? Everything EC says may not be true... The narrative was there were *ghuspaitiyas* (intruders), none were found," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, said BLOs, recruited from among anganwadi workers and primary school teachers, were threatened with imprisonment, disciplinary proceedings or even loss of livelihood for not meeting targets.

However, Chief Justice Kant observed: "The work [SIR] cannot be hampered on this ground. Somebody has to do this... They are State employees. There is an obligation on them. There are officers who go from one State to another for conducting elections."

IndiGo cancels 550 flights, chaos at airports

During the meeting, IndiGo also informed officials that the widespread flight disruptions were due to "misjudgement and planning gaps" in implementing the set of norms governing rest and duty for pilots from November 1, primarily those on restricting night flying. The airline accepted that the actual crew requirement exceeded the numbers they had anticipated.

The Minister expressed clear displeasure regarding the manner in which the situation has been handled by IndiGo, and stressed that ample preparatory time was given to ensure a seamless transition to the new rules, the press statement explained. The airline has also been directed to urgently deploy additional staff at airports to ensure adequate passenger support.

IndiGo has requested exemption until February 10 from implementing reduced flying during night hours. The regulator will review this demand from the airline. The airline has to submit a detailed road map outlining projected crew recruitment in relation to aircraft induction as well as measures for crew training, roster restructuring.

IndiGo's CEO Pieter Elbers also wrote to employees on the crisis and explained that "given the size, scale and complexity of our network, these disruptions grow large immediately and require interventions on multiple levels", which was being done.

Meanwhile, IndiGo's flight disruption spilled over to other airlines. At Pune airport, nine of the 10 parking bays were occupied by IndiGo aircraft overnight, leaving just one parking bay available for use by other airlines. As the airline didn't have pilots available, airport officials struggled to have the bays vacated.

(With PTI inputs)

PM welcomes Putin at airport in warm gesture, hails India-Russia partnership

Putin arrives in Delhi for his first state visit to India since beginning of war in Ukraine, attends private dinner with Modi at the latter's official residence; Rajnath Singh meets Russian Defence Minister on sidelines, says ties rooted in 'mutual trust'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Kremlin connect: Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin as they depart Palam Air Force Base, marking the start of the latter's two-day visit to India on Thursday. (Right) Rajnath Singh welcomes his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov. AFP, SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In a special gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin upon his arrival at the Air Force Station, Palam on Thursday evening, ahead of the India-Russia annual summit scheduled for Friday. This is Mr. Putin's first state visit to India since the beginning of the war in Ukraine.

"Delighted to welcome my friend, President Putin to India. Looking forward to our interactions later this evening and tomorrow. India-Russia friendship is a time-tested one that has greatly benefited our people," said Prime Minister Modi after greeting Mr. Putin on the tarmac of AFS Palam.

Mr. Putin's first engagement started with a private dinner with Mr. Modi at the latter's official residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. The Russian leader will receive a ceremonial reception at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan at 11 a.m. on Friday, which will be followed by a visit to Rajghat, where he will lay a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

The 23rd India-Russia annual summit will commence at 11.50 a.m. at Hyderabad House, to be followed by press statements by Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin.

Several members of Mr. Putin's official delegation reached New Delhi hours before his arrival. Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday evening.

Both Ministers reiterated that the bilateral partnership is rooted in deep mutual trust, shared principles, and long-standing respect, the Ministry of Defence said.

Mr. Singh further underscored India's commitment to strengthening its indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem under the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, highlighting new avenues for bilateral collaboration in advanced and niche technologies, the Ministry said.

Mr. Singh emphasised that India aims at boosting both domestic capability and defence exports.

The Hindu had earlier reported that the two sides are expected to sign a number of agreements on Friday, including one on mobility that will indicate Russia's greater willingness to open its labour market for Indian blue-collar workers.

Govt. blocking LoP meetings with foreign leaders: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday alleged that the government discourages visiting foreign dignitaries from meeting the Leader of the Opposition (LoP), calling it a break from democratic tradition and a sign of "insecurity". The remarks by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha came hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to India.

"It has been a tradition that foreign leaders meet the LoP. This happened during Vajpayee ji and Manmohan Singh ji's time. But now, when I go abroad or when dignitaries come here, the government tells them not to meet me," Mr. Gandhi told reporters in Parliament. Such meetings, he said, offer visiting leaders "another perspective." Asked why the government was doing so, he said, "It is their insecurity."

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the government is breaking protocol.

Maoist toll rises to 18 in gunfight with forces in Bijapur

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

A day after a gunfight broke out between security forces and Maoists along the Bijapur-Dantewada boundary in Chhattisgarh, the police said six more bodies were recovered and a total of 18 Maoists killed in the anti-Naxal operation.

Earlier on Wednesday, the police had said 12 Maoists had been killed. Three security personnel also lost their lives in the operation. Three other security personnel who suffered injuries are receiving treatment.

Inspector General of Police P. Sundarraj told journalists in Bijapur that the intermittent exchange of fire stopped on Thursday morning, after which six more bodies were found in the area. He said there were nine women among the 18 deaths.

Senior Maoist killed

Of the 18 slain Naxalites, 16 have been identified as senior cadres who collectively carried a reward of ₹1.3 crore on their heads. Among them was Modiyami Vella, who was allegedly active as the commander of Company No. 2 of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). "Vella was involved in at least 44 Maoist incidents, including the 2013 Jhiram attack (Bastar district) in which 32 people including senior Congress leaders were killed...," said Mr. Sundarraj.

A guard of honour was accorded to the three police personnel who were killed in the operation at Shaheed Vatika in Bijapur Police Lines.

Putin's visit a tightrope walk for Modi govt. amid sanction threats

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Russian oil is by far the most contentious issue after a rapid expansion in India's oil purchases

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked down the red carpet at Palam airport on Thursday to give Russian President Vladimir Putin his trademark hug as part of a grand welcome, the government signalled that India's ties with Russia are untouched by Western concerns, the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant, and U.S. and European sanctions.

Even so, as the two leaders sit down for bilateral talks on Friday, the government will need to manage a tense tightrope walk, particularly between Russia and Europe, on a number of issues including the optics of the visit, oil imports and trade, defence, nuclear cooperation, and a mobility agreement. The optics of the visit are particularly significant, given the other visitors expected shortly – a U.S. trade delegation is expected this month, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is set to visit India in early January, and the EU's top leadership Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa will be guests for Republic Day and the EU-India summit.

Oil and trade

Russian oil is by far the most contentious piece of the diplomatic puzzle, after a rapid expansion in India's oil purchases from less than 2% of its oil basket before the Ukraine conflict, to 40% last year, driving India-Russia trade from its annual average of $10 billion to $68.7 billion in 2024-25.

With India now expected to cut its oil imports drastically in the wake of U.S. sanctions, India and Russia will on Friday discuss replacing at least some of those oil purchases with other commodities from Russia, as well as boosting Indian exports to Russia of produce and processed foods, apparel, and some machinery, particularly over the newly developed Eastern Maritime Corridor from Chennai to Vladivostok.

Both sides will also push for more progress on the FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) during the visit, even as Indian exporters hit by the U.S.'s 50% tariffs seek new markets.

The India-Russia labour mobility agreement to be announced as the "centrepiece" of Mr. Putin's visit could be a crucial boost for Indian skilled and semi-skilled workers seeking jobs as other Western markets tighten their immigration controls.

The visit will be watched most closely for any defence deals, given that the U.S. had earlier threatened to impose sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act after India finalised a deal to buy S-400 air defence systems from Moscow. Russian technology transfer is key for India, as no other country thus far has agreed to share its most sensitive technologies. With the Russian Duma clearing the RELOS military logistics pact with India, more military exercises with Russia – which the EU had protested – could be expected.

State must not prosecute citizens without reasonable prospect of conviction: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

With 'half-baked' prosecutions and chargesheets, the top court says citizens do not get a fair process

The Supreme Court has cautioned the State against launching criminal prosecution against citizens on a whim, without a reasonable prospect of conviction.

It said half-baked prosecutions and filing of chargesheets was a violation of citizens' right to fair process, and moreover, adds to the burden of an already weighed-down judicial system.

"State should not prosecute citizens without a reasonable prospect of conviction, as it compromises the right to a fair process," a Bench of Justices N.K. Singh and Manmohan cautioned.

The police, at the stage of filing of chargesheet, and the criminal court, at the stage of framing of charges, must act as initial filters ensuring that only cases with a strong suspicion should proceed to the formal trial stage to maintain the efficiency and integrity of the judicial system.

The judgment was based on a petition filed by a man accused of voyeurism and intimidation.

He, along with his brother, was having criminal charges on a complaint filed by a woman, who accused them of taking photographs and filming her on their mobile camera.

The incident dates back to 2020 when she, her friends and some workmen tried to enter the brothers' property. She was alleged to be their tenant. The brothers had restrained her, not letting her in. She accused them of violating her privacy. The Supreme Court discharged the brothers of all the charges, including voyeurism.

The court noted that 'voyeurism' was defined as "an act of a man watching or capturing the image of a woman engaging in a 'private act' in circumstances where she would usually have the expectation of not being observed".

"There is no allegation in the FIR and chargesheet that the complainant was watched or captured by the appellant-accused while she was engaging in a 'private act'," Justice Manmohan, who authored the judgment, observed.

The Supreme Court concluded the woman was actually a "prospective tenant" and had no right to be in the property without the brothers' consent. The verdict found no ground for the charge of criminal intimidation to stay.

CJI says courts should show no sympathy to acid attackers

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday said acid attackers must be shown zero sympathy by courts, and the "entire system" must respond against them.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, agreed, saying perpetrators of acid attacks who leave victims, mostly women and minors, scarred inside and outside for the rest of their lives "must meet with the same ruthlessness as they showed their victims".

"No court must have any sympathy for them [accused in acid attack cases]. The entire system must respond against them," Chief Justice Kant observed orally.

The court was hearing a plea by an acid attack survivor, Shaheen Malik, to formally recognise acid attack survivors as persons with specified disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

CJI Surya Kant

The Chief Justice asked the Centre to consider bringing an ordinance. Mr. Mehta said "no respondent can oppose the cause of the petitioners. They have to be treated as disabled... They will have to be covered under the Act".

The court was shocked to learn that the trial in Ms. Malik's case had been pending even after 16 years. Ms. Malik, who was then 26 and pursuing an MBA, was attacked outside her workplace. She had reportedly undergone 25 reconstructive surgeries. She went on to set up Brave Souls in 2021, which has grown into a pan-India movement offering medical and legal support to acid attack survivors.

The Chief Justice proposed directing the setting up of special courts to exclusively conduct acid attack cases on a day-to-day basis. The court ordered the Registrar-General of the High Courts to provide the number and details of pending trials in acid attack cases.

The petitioner narrated that she was attacked in 2009 in Haryana."Nothing happened in my case till 2013," she told the Chief Justice-led Bench. "Have the accused been punished?" Chief Justice Kant queried. Ms. Malik replied in the negative, saying "final arguments" were still going on in the trial court.

The Chief Justice advised the petitioner to file a separate application so that the top court could take *suo motu* cognisance and ensure the trial progressed every day.

Power to defer polls not arbitrary for EC: panel

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The proposed power to the Election Commission in a Bill that seeks to lay a legal framework to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is not excessive, the Law Commission is learnt to have told a parliamentary committee on Thursday.

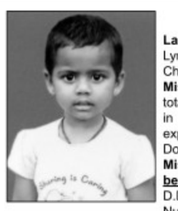
The law panel top brass briefed the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills on simultaneous elections. During the briefing, members said the law panel also noted that the Constitution amendment Bill does not require ratification by at least 50% of the State Assemblies to come into force.

Opposition MPs questioned the law commission officials on the constitutionality and adherence to the federal spirit in the Bill.

The law commission officials briefed the committee members, but were not able to give a satisfactory answer to the questions, an Opposition MP claimed.

Another MP said voters are the basis of democracy and elections at regular intervals strengthen it.

APPEAL



Laharika is 3 years old suffering from "B Cell - Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia". She is advised to undergo Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. Her father works in a private company and they cannot afford this huge expenditure. Please help her to undergo the treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13. N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph:044-42137401/31523781/7338978027.**

EMail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

website:www.womenswelfaresyndiate.org **WWS**

Duplicate voters left on Bihar rolls post SIR: petitioner

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The EC did not disclose the list of voters deleted from rolls till SC order, petitioner tells SC

Advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted in the Supreme Court on Thursday that the Election Commission, during the special intensive revision of voter rolls in Bihar, issued 'cyclostyled' notices to 26 lakh people, asking them to prove their eligibility.

He alleged that there were still lakhs of duplicate voters left on the final Bihar poll rolls prepared post the SIR exercise.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Mr. Bhushan, representing NGO Association for Democratic Reforms along with advocate Neha Rathi, criticised the EC for its "lack of transparency at every stage of the SIR exercise".

"The EC did not disclose the list of voters deleted from 2025 roll until forced to do so by the Supreme Court in an August 14 order," he submitted.

He argued that though the EC's press notices had indicated the number of claims and objections received, these were not made available online in the required 'clickable' format, that is, a format by which the forms could be accessed by clicking on the entry in the list. He said the EC had brought on record neither the 2003 Intensive Revision Guidelines nor evidence of having conducted a prior enquiry to substantiate the need for a "hurried" SIR.

"The EC did not conduct any software-based de-duplication exercise during the Bihar SIR leading to an approximate 15 lakh suspected duplicated voters in Bihar's electoral roll," he submitted with reference to media reports.

A similar fate was bound to follow in the second phase of the SIR if the EC continued to ignore the de-duplication software to weed out duplicate, fake or multiple entries after field verification, he cautioned.

Urbanisation, migration led to voter roll flaws: govt.

Meghwal says some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral rolls

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Thursday that rapid urbanisation and frequent migration were the likely causes of irregularities on the voter rolls.

Mr. Meghwal was responding to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, who asked if the Centre had taken cognisance of allegations of large-scale voter roll irregularities, including duplicate, deleted and fake entries reported in States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Bihar. The MP also asked about steps being taken by the Election Commission to verify, update, and audit electoral rolls to ensure accuracy and prevent manipulation before the elections.

Details were also sought about the verification mechanism to enhance transparency in the voter list revision process and measures being implemented to ensure electoral integrity, data security and accountability of officials involved in voter roll management and election preparedness.

Revision process: A special intensive revision camp bring conducted in Chennai on November 24. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Additions and deletions

In a written reply, Mr. Meghwal said that according to the EC, significant changes have occurred on the electoral roll over the past 20 years due to additions and deletions on a large scale.

"Rapid urbanisation and frequent migration to pursue education, livelihood, and for other reasons, are now a given. Some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence. This has led to an increased possibility of repeated entries in the electoral roll," he said.

He added that this warranted an intensive verification drive to verify each person before enrolment as an elector. Therefore, the commission had ordered a special summary revision starting from Bihar, which has now been extended to other States. Mr. Meghwal said parties were being involved in the process, and the electoral roll has been shared at the draft publication and final publication stage.

The EC is also inviting claims and objections from the public, and a system of supervision and checks to maintain the quality of the rolls was in place. The norms mandated the display of claims and objections on the Electoral Registration Officer's notice board and Chief Electoral Officer's website along with a detailed schedule of press notes and advertisements published during the revision process for public awareness.

"The First Appeal against any decision of the ERO is placed before the District Magistrate; and the second appeal before the Chief Electoral Officer," the Minister said.

INBRIEF

Electronic toll system will ease user experience: Gadkari

A new system of toll collection has been rolled out in 10 places and will be extended across the country, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday. The new electronic system will be rolled out within a year and will ensure a seamless experience for highway users, Mr. Gadkari said in the Lok Sabha during Question Hour. Currently, 4,500 highway projects worth ₹10 lakh crore are ongoing across the country, the Minister said.

NEET has commercialised education, says Congress MP

Seeking a full review of the medical entrance exam National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), Congress MP Manickam Tagore on Thursday said it had not encouraged merit but rather commercialised education by strengthening private-run "educational empires" and weakening schools. The MP said during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha that a committee set up by the Centre had found lapses in the coaching system. Mr. Tagore said the current practice was "flawed" as it focused on only "single stakes exams" that benefited only the rich, the coaching mafia and dummy schools.He demanded a full review of NEET and its impact on equity.

SC extends relief to Rahul Gandhi in defamation case

The Supreme Court on Thursday extended till April 22 its interim order staying proceedings in a criminal defamation case pending before a Lucknow court against the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for remarks he made to presspersons during the Bharat Jodo Yatra regarding the reported skirmishes between Indian and Chinese soldiers along the border. A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma listed the matter for final hearing in April 2026.

SC orders 30% reservation for women in State Bar Councils

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Bar Council of India to ensure 30% reservation for women in the forthcoming State Bar Council elections to give effect to the "constitutional ethos" that mandates such representation. A Bench was hearing two public interest petitions filed by Supreme Court advocates Yogamaya M.G. and Shehla Chaudhary, who pointed to the stark under-representation of women and other marginalised groups in Bar Council bodies across the country. It said that the quota would extend not only to elected positions but also to the posts of office-bearers in every State Bar Council.

Won't join hands with RJD again, says Nitish

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday declared he will never join hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) again and will remain with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The national president of the Janata Dal (United) made the statement in the Bihar Assembly. During his speech, Mr. Kumar also highlighted the NDA's achievements in the State.

"You used to agree with whatever I said, but later you started making mistakes, and I left. Now, I will never leave [the NDA]. This is our place and I will stay here but remember the work done by us," he told the Opposition.

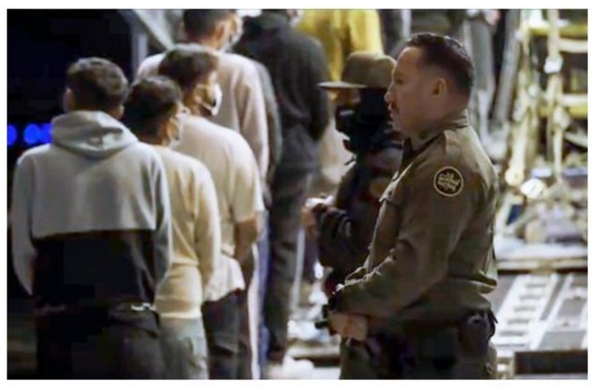
U.S. deported 3,258 Indian nationals in 2025, highest since 2009: Jaishankar in Rajya Sabha

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that since January, 3,258 Indian nationals had been deported by the United States, the highest figure for any year since 2009.

A total of 18,822 Indian nationals have been deported since 2009. He was replying to a question raised by Samajwadi Party MP Ramjilal Suman.

Mr. Suman also asked "whether it is a fact that women have also been deported in handcuffs by the U.S. Government". Mr. Jaishankar clarified that 73-year-old Harjit Kaur, whose deportation was widely reported in Indian media, was not handcuffed during her return to India. However, he confirmed that she was maltreated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials during her detention in the U.S. "While Harjit Kaur (deportee) was not handcuffed, she was maltreated in detention before she was put on the flight. We raised the matter of her maltreatment strongly with the American Embassy and asked the American authorities to look into it," he added.



Home bound: Chained Indian migrants allegedly without legal papers being deported to India on a U.S. aircraft. X/USBPCHIEF

Ms. Kaur was deported in September after spending three decades in the U.S. She spent 60 to 70 hours in detention without a bed and was forced to sleep on the floor despite double knee replacements. She was reportedly given ice to take medication and denied food she could eat, with guards blaming her for her inability to eat the provided sandwich.

In his written reply, he also noted that of the 3,258 deportees, 2,032 individuals (62.3%) travelled on regular commercial flights, while 1,226 (37.6%) were transported on ICE or U.S. Customs and Border Protection charter flights.

He emphasised that while issuing visas is a sovereign right, India has raised concerns about the ill-treatment of Indian deportees, especially women and children, with U.S. authorities. "The issuance of visas is a sovereign right of a government. So, they reserve the right to take a decision on a visa, which is based on their assessment of the national security implications of a particular individual's position," Mr. Jaishankar said.

The U.S., he added, has asked applicants, particularly student visa seekers, to switch their social media settings from private to public so that authorities can scrutinise their online activity.

Responding to supplementaries on the issue, the Minister said that the problem began in April, when a new policy was announced by the Secretary of State in the U.S.

"As a result of that, even for relatively minor offences, we saw the cancellation of visas of students. In many cases, there was also pressure on them to self-deport," he said.

Parliament approves Bill to levy excise duty on tobacco

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday approved a Bill to levy a higher excise duty on tobacco and related products once the GST compensation cess ends, with the Rajya Sabha returning the legislation to the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 on Wednesday.

Replying to a discussion on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said this was not an additional tax, and the tax burden, as currently applicable under the GST regime, will continue.

Nirmala Sitharaman

She said that in the last GST Council, it was discussed in detail, and as was agreed earlier, that the compensation cess collection will probably come to a stop at the end of December.

"Let me assure here itself straight away that the tobacco products will still be taxed under the demerit category at 40% in the GST frame of things. They will still be taxed at 40%, but there will not be any compensation," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The provisions of the Bill will come into effect once the GST compensation cess, which is currently levied on tobacco, comes to an end.

DMK questions hybrid title of Health cess Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

DMK MP T. Sumathy on Thursday objected to the title of the Health Security *se* National Security Cess Bill, 2025 taken up for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha, claiming it was an attempt to inject a certain "cultural and linguistic" flavour in what should be a neutral statutory title.

Participating in the debate on the Bill, she questioned why the title of the English legislation was framed 'Health Security *se* National Security'. "Why is this linguistic hybrid sir. Why this attempt to inject a certain cultural and linguistic flavour in what should be a neutral statutory title," she asked.

Earlier, Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy while speaking on the Bill said he struggled to follow the Finance Minister's speech in Hindi on the Bill.

Ms. Sitharaman rebuked Mr. Roy for objecting to her speaking in Hindi, pointing out that the translation technology allows members to listen to speeches in any language.

Minister says 4.8 crore cases are pending in lower courts

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that the total number of vacant posts of judges in district courts across India was 4,855 and that there were 297 vacancies in various High Courts.

He said around 4.8 crore cases were pending in lower courts across the country. Sharing the number of pending cases in the Supreme Court in the past five years, Mr. Meghwal, in a written reply, said that 90,694 cases were under trial in the court as of December 1. The pendency was 70,239 in 2021.

Responding to a question from Vikramjit Singh Sahney, the Minister said filling of vacant positions of judges in district and subordinate courts was the responsibility of the High Courts and the State governments. For the Supreme Court and High Courts, vacancies were being filled continuously in collaboration of the executive and judiciary.

Uttar Pradesh topped the charts with the most vacancies of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts, according to the data shared by the Minister. Uttar Pradesh has 1,055 vacancies in the lower judiciary followed by 535 vacancies in Gujarat and 384 vacancies in Madhya Pradesh.

Even among the High Courts, the Allahabad High Court has the maximum number of vacant posts – 60 – and has the most pending cases at 11,66,971. The lower courts in Uttar Pradesh have 1,13,05,841 cases pending, once again, the highest in the country.

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INBRIEF

M.P. CM releases 3 cheetahs into the Kuno National Park

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday released three cheetahs into the wild from their enclosures at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district, on International Cheetah Day. According to officials, Mr. Yadav released Veera and her two 10-month-old cubs in the Parond forest region. He said that the pledge of bringing the big cats back to Asia had picked up pace. "Sheopur Kuno region has now become an international-level centre. The tourism here has gone up five times and the way their [cheetahs] family is growing, the displaced people of the region will get new work opportunities in the coming time," he said.

Bhima Koregaon case: HC grants bail to Hany Babu

The Bombay High Court on Thursday granted bail to former Delhi University Associate Professor Hany Babu, who has been in custody for more than five years in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Bhima Koregaon case. A Division Bench of Justices A.S. Gadkari and Ranjitsinha R. Bhonsale directed that Babu be released on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh with sureties. The court observed that his prolonged incarceration without commencement of trial violated his fundamental right to a speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution. He was arrested by the NIA on July 28, 2020, under provisions of the UAPA.

Postal department considers UPI-like 'labels' for addresses

The system, called DHRUVA, will provide users a convenient way to share their addresses across platforms; users can grant firms limited address access, after which the label needs re-authorisation

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Department of Posts this week released a draft amendment to the Post Office Act, 2023, aimed at introducing an interoperable, standardised, and user-centric addressing system called the Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address, or DHRUVA. The framework has been under consultation for a few months, with one key element, DIGIPIN, rolled out in March.

A senior official involved in DHRUVA's implementation said it would be able to replace textual addresses with email or UPI address-like labels such as "name@entity", which would act as a proxy for a physical address.

The government hopes to build this system as part of its digital public infrastructure initiatives and will allow private companies to participate.

The department is hoping to draw interest from e-commerce and gig platforms, where users need to provide addresses across multiple services. On these platforms, individuals would be able to provide a label instead of an address and authorise firms to receive the geographic coordinates and full text of their address instantly, instead of filling out address forms repeatedly.

The draft amendment would allow the postal department to set up a Section 8 not-for-profit entity under government supervision. The body would play a role similar to the National Payments Corporation of India, which is an association of banks administering the UPI payments system.

Consent-based

Users would be able to authorise companies to view their address for a specified period if they wish, after which a given label will require re-authorisation.

There is no compulsion in the draft amendment for private players to join, the official said, and the department hopes the system will be compelling enough for firms and users to sign up.

Labels will be provided by address service providers, and the consent architecture will be managed by address information agents, or AIAs.

DIGIPIN system

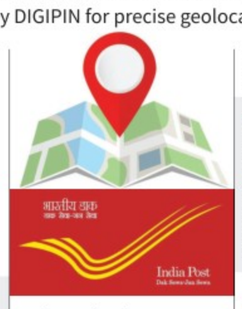
The DIGIPIN system is the foundational layer for this service, the official said. DIGIPIN is a 10-character alphanumeric expression of latitude and longitude. The technology was developed to provide more precise locations in rural areas or in cases where the textual expression of a physical address does not offer adequate information.

DIGIPIN was open-sourced by the department, and each DIGIPIN corresponds to a roughly 14 square metre patch of land, with a mathematical function deterministically generating a unique code. This translates to around 228 billion DIGIPINs for Indian territory.

Smart addresses

A draft amendment seeks to enable an interoperable system replacing physical addresses with smart labels like "name@entity" powered by DIGIPIN for precise geolocation

- Labels will be provided by address service providers, while consent architecture will be managed by address information agents
- It will be based on the DIGIPIN system, which is a 10-character alphanumeric expression of latitude and longitude coordinates



- The technology was developed to provide more precise locations in rural areas or in cases where the textual expression of a physical address does not offer adequate information
- The draft amendment is under consultation; Section 8 entity proposed (like NPCI for UPI)
- The system will be built as part of government's digital public infrastructure initiatives, and will allow private firms to participate

Union govt. evades question on infant malnutrition deaths

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre cited public data to argue that malnutrition indicators for children had improved since 1990-91

The Union government on Thursday evaded questions about the number of infant deaths due to malnutrition in tribal regions in the past five years.

In a four-page response to a direct question by Trinamool Congress member Sougata Ray, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs spoke of schemes and programmes it was running to deal with malnutrition in all children.

It also provided publically available National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data on stunting, wasting, and underweight children, and mentioned protocols issued to minimise mortality and morbidity due to malnutrition.

No data

However, it did not provide any data on the number of deaths due to malnutrition.

The reply was given by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey in the Lok Sabha.

The Union government cited analyses of publicly available data from National Family Health Surveys to argue that malnutrition indicators for all children had improved since 1990-91.

Significantly, Mr. Uikey's reply noted that the government's population projections placed the number of children under the age of five at over 13.7 crore.

However, only about 6.6 crore of these children are enrolled at anganwadi centres and registered on the government's Poshan Tracker.

Government data showed that 6.44 crore of these children had been examined for malnutrition indicators, according to which at least 52% were stunted, wasted, or underweight as of October 2025.

"The analysis of the above NFHS data and the Poshan Tracker data shows improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India," the Union government's response said.

Swaraj Kaushal

Ex-Mizoram Governor Swaraj Kaushal dies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Swaraj Kaushal, former Governor of Mizoram and and a senior advocate, passed away on Thursday afternoon. He was 73.

Kaushal was the husband of the late Sushma Swaraj and father of New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj. Prime Minister wrote in a post on X, "He distinguished himself as a lawyer and a person who believed in using the legal profession to improve the lives of the underprivileged."

Supreme Court to review clause in 2025 Order that contradicts Assam Accord

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

AGP says it has indirectly legalised illegal immigration into Assam after March 1971 cut-off

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response to a plea challenging the constitutionality of a provision that allows persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh who entered India without a passport or valid documents before December 31, 2024, to stay on in Assam.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant issued formal notice to the Centre on the plea filed by the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), represented by senior advocate Jayant Bhushan and advocate Rahul Pratap, challenging Clause 3(l)(e) of the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order 2025 as violative of the Assam Accord.

The Accord, meant to halt the influx of people from Bangladesh, required foreigners who had entered Assam on or after March 25, 1971 to be identified and deported. The intent of the Assam Accord was made explicit through the insertion of Section 6A into the Citizenship Act, 1955. Section 6A barred citizenship to immigrants who entered Assam after March 25, 1971.

"The rationale behind the Assam Accord was to preserve the demography and to promote the cultural, social and linguistic identities and heritage of Assamese people by constitutional and legislative safeguard. Any attempt to extend the cut-off date from March 24, 1971 to December 31, 2024 would be violative of the constitutional, legislative and statutory protection accorded to the people of Assam under the Assam Accord," the AGP submitted.

The AGP argued that Clause 3(l)(e) of the 2025 Order has rendered the cut-off date in the Assam Accord otiose. It has indirectly legalised illegal immigration into Assam after March 1971. The clause has also violated Section 6A, which was upheld by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in October last year.

The petition submitted that the clause ignored the point that Section 6A would override "all other provisions of law for the time being in force".

SC declines to halt demolitions in Bareilly, asks residents to move HC

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to stay the demolition of the houses of two Bareilly residents, who alleged that State authorities had embarked on a "targeted" demolition drive in the aftermath of the violent clashes that erupted on September 26 after Islamic cleric and Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief Tauqeer Raza Khan called for a sit-in protest over alleged derogatory remarks against the Prophet in relation to the "I Love Muhammad" posters.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing a writ petition filed under Article 32 by the two residents, who contended that their homes and an adjoining banquet hall were being razed without any notice and in complete disregard of due process.

Residents react as authorities demolish a building linked to arrested cleric Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan's associate on Tuesday. PTI

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate Rauf Rahim submitted that the conduct of the authorities was in the teeth of the apex court's November 13, 2024 ruling, which laid down pan-India guidelines mandating a prior show-cause notice and a minimum 15-day response period before any demolition.

"This is contempt in the face of the court's order. One of the petitioners is a 70-year-old man who recently underwent cardiac surgery... the authorities have already demolished a part of his house," he said.

The judges, however, questioned why the petitioners had not approached the Allahabad High Court in the first instance. "The court has already given a detailed judgment. Approach the High Court and take the benefit of that judgment. Why should you come under Article 32 every time?" the Bench said.

Mr. Rahim submitted that securing an urgent listing before the High Court would take at least 10 days, during which the demolition could cause irreversible harm. "The powers of this court are enormous... please protect me in the meantime," he urged the Bench.

Justice Nath reiterated the court's reluctance to stay the demolition, observing that doing so would effectively sidestep the jurisdiction of the High Courts under Article 226.

When Mr. Rahim insisted that the authorities were "standing with bulldozers" and that further demolition was imminent, the Bench agreed to grant limited interim protection.

Accordingly, the court directed that the *status quo* be maintained for a week.

TH CROSSWORD + 14657

(set by Saral)

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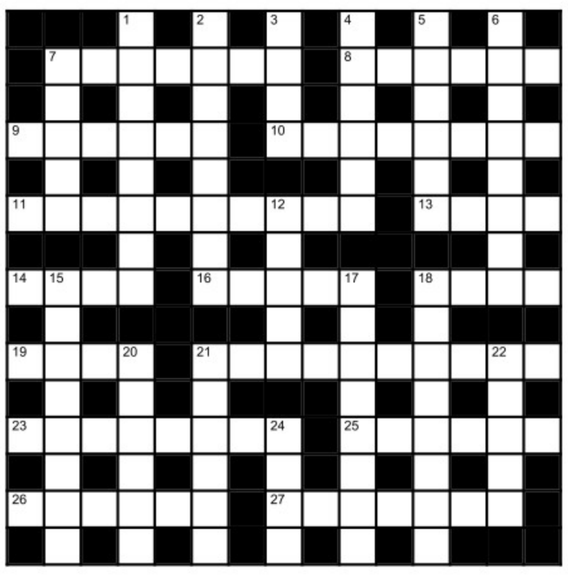
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Nothing in list for bird (7)
8 Terribly upset player finally breaks out (6)
9 Hospital almost secure, one admitted (6)
10 Debris of crew at sea close to dock near a vacant garage (8)
11 Old niece perhaps receiving training with right knowledge (10)
13 Twelve months? Mostly long (4)
14 Provokes followers (4)
16 Primarily gliding effortlessly, creature keenly observing lizard (5)
18 Block westbound vessels (4)
19 Sharp blow killing that man in cloak (4)
21 Special treats cop arranged for viewers (10)
23 Bald German without leads to get councillor (8)
25 European rejected English daughter and ran away (6)
26 About crime? Nothing in gambling house (6)
27 Shakes pieces (7)

Down

1 Suggestions confusing son with clues (8)
2 Loading bag with fresh gin outside bar (8)
3 Boast about rank (4)
4 Cancel permit to enter river (6)
5 Jailer wants new flier (6)
6 Motionless deer with insect below tip of nose (8)
7 Rest often briefly at ten (5)
12 City in France checked by husband for vocation (5)
15 Similarly a balloon with a string initially (2,4,2)
17 Broadcast novel "The Iron man" essentially (2,3,3)
18 Course with old information for source of disease (8)
20 Paper article is describing views at last (6)
21 Mark in musical instrument reportedly (6)
22 Sage climbing up around strong ridge (5)
24 Mesh covering small resort (4)

SUDOKU

7			1		8	5		
	3		7					
	2	8		5	4			
		1			3	2	7	
3	7						6	4
	8	2	6			3		
			4	7		6	3	
					6		5	
		7	8		9			2

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	D	R	I	F	T		T	A
N		U		O			X	
G	O	P	U	R	A		W	E
E		T		T		P		S
L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	
I		R		E		N	A	
C	R	E	S	T	F	A	L	L
A		S		I		L		G
			M	O	T	H	E	R
A		G		E		Y		B
S	C	R	I	B	E		T	R
S		O		E		S	A	
E	A	T	S	I	N	T	O	
S		T		N		O		
S	T	O	P	G	A	P	S	

G	A	L	O	N	G			
	X		L		D		R	
E	L	L	D	O	N	E		
	S		S		U		A	
S	K	I	R	T	S			
	A		I		S		E	
L	L	E	N					
	G		A		S		A	
T	H	E	R	N	A	K	E	D
	B		D		I		U	
T	R	I	B	U	N	A	L	
	A		O		C		A	
I	N	F	A	N	T			
	E		R		E			
A	S	C	E	N	D			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	7	9	8	1	6	5	4
8	1	4	7	5	6	2	9	3
6	5	9	2	3	4	1	7	8
5	2	8	6	7	9	3	4	1
7	4	1	3	2	5	8	6	9
3	9	6	1	4	8	5	2	7
4	6	5	8	1	7	9	3	2
1	7	2	5	9	3	4	8	6
9	8	3	4	6	2	7	1	5

FAITH

Lord Narayana, the owner

We should strive to reach Lord Narayana's feet. He is the goal, but He is also the means. We must understand that every atma is His property, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. The word "swAmi," means owner. The Lord is our swami, that is the owner of all atmas. In Tamil, one of the words for owner is "udaiyavar." This word "udaiyavar" was a title given to Ramanujacharya by Lord Ranganatha of Srirangam. The Lord owns everything in the world. The Sanskrit word "vibhuti" means wealth, and it is common to talk of the Lord's nitya vibhuti and His leela vibhuti. Sri Vaikuntha, the Lord's abode, is His nithya vibhuti. This world that we mortals inhabit is also undoubtedly His wealth, and is known as leela vibhuti. When Lord Ranganatha referred to Ramanujacharya as Udaiyavar, He was saying that all His wealth was Ramanuja's too. Such was the greatness of Ramanuja.

The owner of a property has to safeguard his property. That is why the Lord, as the owner of jivatmas, is also the One who has to ensure that they cross the ocean of samsara. Sita's words to Hanuman show the role of the Lord as the means to liberation. Hanuman is ready to rescue Sita. But Sita refuses to accept his offer of help. She is Herself capable of escaping the clutches of Ravana. But isn't Rama the One who should save? That being the case, She must rely on Him to do so. Will it not be a blot on His prowess if He does not accomplish the task of liberating Sita? Here Sita demonstrates that we should place our dependence solely on the Lord for liberation. We are here on this earth, because we did not resort to Saranagati. Had we surrendered to Him, we would not have taken this birth.

INBRIEF

IndusInd Bank denies talks of bringing in strategic partner

IndusInd Bank on Thursday denied a report that it is in discussions to bring in a strategic partner. "There is no discussion of this nature underway with anyone in the bank," the bank said. U.K.-based Hinduja Group, the lender's top shareholder, is looking for a strategic partner with global expertise to take a minority stake, the Economic Times reported earlier in the day, citing Ashok Hinduja, chairman of IndusInd International Holdings. REUTERS

Granules packaging facility completes U.S. FDA inspection

Generic drugmaker Granules India's packaging facility in the U.S. completed a GMP inspection by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with zero observations. This was the second U.S. FDA inspection of Granules Consumer Health facility and follows the March 2023 audit that resulted in a no action indicated classification by the regulator, Granules said. Granules Consumer Health, a step-down subsidiary, serves as the front-end division for OTC products in the U.S.

Zydus Vadodara unit gets U.S. FDA report with VAI status

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued an establishment inspection report (EIR) with a voluntary action indicated (VAI) classification to an injectable facility of Zydus Lifesciences in Vadodara. The company received the EIR for a GMP follow-up inspection the FDA conducted at the facility from August 25 to September 5, 2025 classifying the unit as VAI. The inspection followed a warning letter issued on August 29, 2024 by the U.S. FDA, Zydus said.

India cuts Russian oil imports by a sharp 38% in October

India imported $3.55 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in Oct. 2025, down from $5.8 billion in October 2024; Russia still accounts for about 32% of India's total oil imports by value and volume

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India cut its oil imports from Russia by 38% in value terms and 31% in volume terms in October 2025 as compared with last year, with the cuts driven by a high base effect as well as an overall reduction in India's oil imports.

The latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows India imported $3.55 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in October 2025, down from a historically high $5.8 billion in October 2024. This is the sharpest single-month drop in the value of oil imports from Russia.

In volume terms, India imported 71.6 lakh tonnes of Russian oil, down from 103.8 lakh tonnes in October 2024, which too was among the highest oil imports India had made from Russia.

This follows up on a 29% reduction in value terms and 17% reduction in volume terms in September 2025. That said, Russia still accounts for about 32% of India's total oil imports by value and volume.

The data shows that this cut in oil imports from Russia comes at a time when India's total oil import bill was also down 15.4% in October 2025. However, it also shows that, during this month, oil imports from the U.S. jumped nearly 40% in volume terms, and 18.3% in value terms as compared with October last year. A previous analysis by *The Hindu* had shown that India's strategy to pull back on its Russian oil imports had been playing out for a longer period, beginning well before the U.S. imposed a 25% tariff penalty on India in August for importing Russian oil.

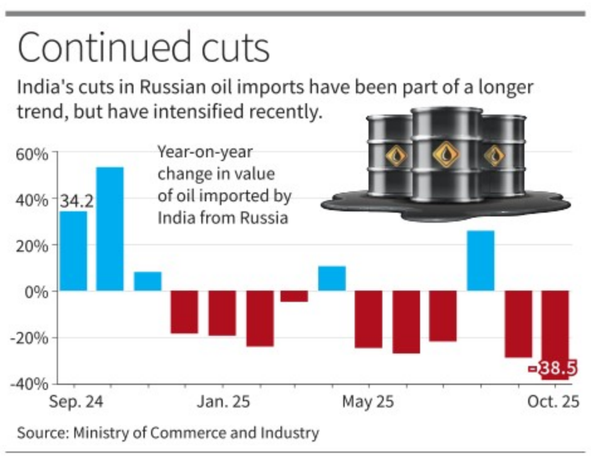
Over the last 12 months up to the end of October 2025, India had seen a year-on-year fall in Russian oil imports in nine months. Most of these cuts were in double digits, and six were by more than 20% each.

Notably, on a month-on-month basis, India's imports from Russia have actually grown. That is, oil imports from Russia in October 2025 were 7.3% and 7.8% higher than in September 2025, by value and volume, respectively.

A report from Rubix Data Sciences, a data analytics firm, predicts that India's imports of Russian oil would have peaked in November, before falling in December.

"India's crude oil imports from Russia are projected to reach their highest level in five months in November 2025, according to preliminary figures from Kpler, as domestic refiners rushed to lock in cargoes before the U.S. deadline of restricting transactions with sanctioned Russian producers took effect on 21st November," it said.

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative and former Director General of Foreign Trade, India's increased dependence on Russian oil over the last few years has resulted in a "lopsided" bilateral relationship.



India Inc needs 'leap of faith' to fulfil Russian demand for goods: Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Russia has a huge demand for industrial goods and consumer products, which can be fulfilled by Indian businesses if only they take a "leap of faith", Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum just hours ahead of the arrival of Russian President Vladimir Putin here, Mr. Goyal said that the "sky is the limit" on what 1.4 billion Indians can offer Russia.

"I think if we all work together, particularly if our business community takes a leap of faith, I'm very sure this untapped potential can be explored," Mr. Goyal said. "The partnership will flourish, it will address the trade imbalance in the near future, and we'll work to eliminate, reduce, and dilute the trade barriers, if any."

India's goods trade deficit, which was at $6.6 billion in 2021-22, surged to $58.9 billion by 2024-25. It stood at $33 billion in 2025-26 as of October 2025.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,265	0.19
US Dollar	89.89	0.28
Gold	1,31,600	-0.45
Brent oil	63.14	-0.03

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2217.90	28.10
Adani Ports	1505.60	7.90
Apollo Hosp	7201.00	17.00
Asian Paints	2957.20	3.70
Axis Bank	1280.00	9.30
Bajaj Auto	9085.00	84.50
Bajaj Finserv	2049.20	3.20
Bajaj Finance	1029.10	7.70
Bharat Elec	407.15	3.20
Bharti Airtel	2103.80	17.80
Cipla	1521.00	13.00
Coal India	379.05	3.80
Dr Reddys Lab	1277.60	-3.10
Eicher Motors	7100.00	18.50
Eternal Ltd.	295.75	-2.00
Grasim Ind	2730.40	10.10
HCL Tech	1654.60	14.10
HDFC Bank	997.20	-3.30
HDFC Life	760.80	8.85
Hindalco	810.80	-5.50
Hind Unilever	2462.20	14.20
ICICI Bank	1386.70	-4.80
IntGlobeAvi	5436.50	-159.00
Infosys	1597.60	18.90
ITC	403.05	2.55
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	302.25	1.25
JSW Steel	1150.60	7.00
Kotak Bank	2135.40	-10.70
L&T	3983.60	-4.40
M&M	3671.60	22.20
Maruti Suzuki	15994.00	-88.00
Max Healthcare	1083.90	-2.10
NestleIndia	1242.40	0.50
NTPC	322.95	0.00
ONGC	242.23	2.21
PowerGrid Corp	269.10	0.65
Reliance Ind	1535.60	-3.20
SBI Life	2002.90	30.10
State Bank	948.10	-2.95
Shriram Finance Ltd.	828.15	0.05
Sun Pharma	1818.30	11.60
TataConsumerProduct	1148.40	8.40
Tata Steel	166.77	-0.15
TCS	3229.20	49.20
Tech Mahindra	1562.30	20.60
Titan	3800.40	-17.40
Tata Motors PV	356.45	-0.40
Trent Ltd.	4215.80	27.60
UltraTech Cement	11608.00	17.00
Wipro	256.93	2.24

ASG Eye Hospital to invest ₹2,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

ASG Eye Hospital Ltd., a super specialty eye care chain, announced plans to invest about ₹2,000 crore to expand its network to up to 700 centres by 2030.

The company, having private equity investors such as General Atlantic and Kedaara Capital, will raise about ₹1,000 crore either through private placement or IPO in 12 to 18 months to partly fund the expansion, MD and CEO Dr. Arun Singhvi said.

The firm has also entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Sharp Sight Eye Hospital in a ₹400-crore deal.

LIC unveils Protection Plus, Bima Kavach

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced two new plans Protection Plus and Bima Kavach.

LIC Protection Plus is a non par, linked, life, individual, savings plan that offers life insurance cover cum savings throughout the term of the policy.

Bima Kavach is a non par, non linked, life, individual, pure risk plan providing financial protection to the family of the insured in case of his/her death during the policy term. Special premium rates are offered for women and non-smokers under Bima Kavach.

Suzlon to start three new AI-enabled smart blade factories

Kunal Shankar
PUDUCHERRY

J.P. Chalasani

Suzlon Energy, India's largest wind turbine manufacturer, announced on Thursday that it will set up three new AI-enabled smart blade factories, two of which will come up in Gujarat and Karnataka, with the third location to be finalised shortly. The expansion will take Suzlon's nationwide manufacturing footprint to 20 facilities, strengthening its position as India accelerates towards its renewable energy targets.

The new plants mark a major push by the company to speed up execution of its 6.2 GW order book, reduce logistics time, and bring manufacturing closer to wind project hubs. According to the company's press note, the factories will integrate automation, digital workflows, robotics, and advanced monitoring systems to boost productivity, improve quality, and enhance workplace safety. Suzlon will also upgrade all 15 existing factories with similar digital interventions under its new smart-factory programme.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, J.P. Chalasani, Group CEO, said Suzlon had planned an annual capex of around ₹550 crore over the next several years, portions of which will fund the new factories. He declined to specify the unit-wise investment, noting that costs would remain "dynamic" depending on order flows and the technology upgrades demanded by a fast-evolving global wind energy landscape.

Suzlon currently maintains one-third of India's operational 50 GW wind fleet, giving it a deep servicing footprint across the country.

The CEO said India's wind sector was entering "its most promising growth phase" with less than 4% of India's over 1 TW wind potential utilised so far–a figure echoed in Suzlon's internal industry outlook presentation, which pegs the country's technical wind capacity at 1,164 GW, concentrated across eight states.

Mr. Chalasani said the transition would require rapid scaling of domestic manufacturing.

On competition from global players, including Chinese manufacturer Envision, which recently secured a significant wind turbine supply contract in India, Mr. Chalasani sounded unfazed.

He emphasised that Suzlon's lifetime operation and maintenance (O&M) model – covering upgrades, site-specific adaptations, and localisation–offered "unmatched value" to customers. He added that the Centre's proposed localisation policy, expected to require foreign OEMs to manufacture in India, would "level the playing field."

(The writer was in Puducherry at Suzlon's invitation)

asci
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF INDIA
Bella Vista, Raj Bhavan Road, Hyderabad-500 082
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Expression of Interest is invited for Selection of Consultant towards the following service

Name of Service	Last Date & Time for Submission of EoI Documents
Concept Design, Detailed Project Report (DPR) Preparation, and Execution Support for Establishing the International State-of-the-Art Sanitation Experium at ASCI College Park Campus, Hyderabad	15 days from the date of advertisement

EoI documents i.e. form and other terms & conditions/details can be downloaded from ASCI Hyderabad. Website: (https://www.asci.org.in).
For queries, if any, mail: **ankurp@asci.org.in**

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 006187	Procurement of Sodium Hydrosulphite for Unit - I.	18.12.2025
252613 006158	Procurement of CBFL Plug Screw Feeder ADI 23 Part No 1-5773036 MOC: CD4MCu	20.12.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/6471/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP)
BESCOM invites tenders through KPPP platform from eligible Bidders for "System Improvements Works like Replacement of Age Old LT Conductor by Rabbit/AB Cable, Providing additional DTCs/Enhancement of DTCs & Replacement of Deteriorated poles in identified SC/ST colonies in Madhugiri, CSD Sira & RSD Sira Sub Divisions of **Madhuguri Division (Lot-1)**, Pavagada, Koratagere & Kodigenahalli Sub Divisions of **Madhuguri Division (Lot-2)**, Kunigal, Huliyurdurga & Yediyur Sub Divisions of **Kunigal Division**, Tiptur, Turvekere & Chikkanayakanahalli Sub Divisions of **Tiptur Division**, Tumkur RSD-2, Gubbi & Nittur Sub Divisions of **Tumkur Division** of Tumkur Circle, BESCOM for a period of Four months on fixed price rate contract Partial Turnkey (AB Cable & Distribution Transformers supplied by BESCOM) Percentage quoted Basis".

Sl. No.	Division	Enquiry Nos.
1	Kunigal Division	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT644
2	Tiptur Division	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT645
3	Tumkur Division	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT646
4	Madhuguri Division-Lot 1	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT647
5	Madhuguri Division-Lot 2	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT648

Bid Documents will be available: on or after 05.12.2025.
Last date for Bid Submission: 20.12.2025 at 17:30 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.), Operations, BESCOM

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)
No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2025-26/5447 Date:04.12.2025
-ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION(KPP PORTAL):-
The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item ratetenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-2,3&4 Standard tender documents for a work under 3054 SH Road Maintenance, 059 Dept Buildings, 5054 SH Bridge Improvements(Prequalified Tender), 5054 SH Bridge KRDCL total 5 number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of Rs.28.76/- Lakhs and Rs.3500/-Lakhs respectively and minimum and maximum EMD amount of Rs. 57,600/- and Rs.27,63,800/- Part-1 and Pre-qualified tender: Tender receipt Date is on 20.12.2025 up to 4.30 PM , Technical Bid Opening Date is on 22.12.2025 after 4.45 PM Part-2: Tender receipt Date is on 26.12.2025 up to 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 29.12.2025 after 4.45 PM, For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 04.12.2025.(Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department. Belagavi Dn. Belagavi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1435/KSMCA/2025-26

Karnataka Public Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru-560001
No.: EIC/PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26 Date: 04.12.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short-Term Tender for Three Building works in Vijayanagar, Uttara Kannada, Ramanagara, Yadagir & Dharwad Districts. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from **05.12.2025, 05:30 PM** onwards.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/CP/LC/4222/2025-26 **PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru**

GOVT. OF KARNATAKA
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division, Udupi - 576101.
C. No. : (0820) 2531802
No.: PWD:UDN:NIT-35:2025-26:AE-2 Dated: 04.12.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
It is hereby notified for the information of intending registered contractor, of Class-II and III in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka transparency in public procurement act - 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on **18.12.2025** through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" for **Indent No. 22566 and 22730** under **5054 - Appendix - E** head, work costing **Rs. 333.00 to 384.95 (excluding GST)**. For more information contact office during office hours.
Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Udupi Division, Udupi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client, Sri.K.BALASUBRAMANI, Aged about 35 years, son of Kemppanna K M., Residing at No.326, Jai Hanuman Nagar, Arekere, Beguru, Bangalore South, Bengaluru 560 076, has Lost Original Deed of Declaration dated 29.11.2023, registered as document No.ABL-1-11177/2023-24, Book-I, registered on 02.12.2023, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Attibele, Property Situated at S. Bingipura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District,
Any Finders Please contact
Devika Kumari.A., Advocate.
No.1115, Ground Floor, 26th 'B' Main, 41st Cross, 9th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560 069, Mob: 9480620781.

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BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.
No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/14/CALL-2/2025-26 Date: 04-12-2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPPP only)
The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the consultancy services for the works mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per KC-6 of standard bidders documents. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

SL. No	Name of work	Estimate amount of works (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Preparation of detailed project report for the work of Establishment of Transfer stations for C&D waste in 7 locations of BBMP Limits.Call-2	2800.00	02 Months	56,000.00

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: 09.12.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal. **2.** Pre bid meeting: 10.11.2025 at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.** Last date for submission of the bids: 16.12.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs. **4.** Date of opening of Technical bid on : 17.12.2025 at 16.30 Hrs. **5.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.
NOTE: 1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches. **2.** Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
DIPR/CP/4221/AAA/2025-26 **BSWML**

LONDON

U.K., Norway will mount joint naval patrols to protect undersea cables

REUTERS

Britain and Norway will mount joint naval patrols to protect undersea cables from Russia, the U.K. said on Thursday, as Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Støre held talks on defence. The U.K. government says a combined fleet of at least 13 warships will protect critical infrastructure". AP

DHAKA

Critically ill Bangladesh ex-PM Zia to be flown to U.K. for treatment

AFP

Bangladesh's critically ill former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, a key figure in elections slated for next year, is to be flown by air ambulance to Britain, her doctor said on Thursday. Ms. Zia, 80, is in intensive care in the capital Dhaka, after she was admitted to hospital last month with symptoms of a lung infection. AFP

KARACHI

25% increase in terror incidents in 2025 in Pak., says think tank report

AFP

Pakistan continues to reel under terrorism with a surge of 25% violence-related incidents in 2025 compared to the previous year, a think tank report has said. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan together accounted for over 96% of all 3,187 fatalities, according to the Islamabad-based Centre for Research and Security Studies. PTI

JERUSALEM

Israel's Netanyahu picks military secretary as new Mossad chief

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday appointed Major General Roman Gofman, his military secretary with no intelligence background, as the next Mossad chief. Major General Gofman, a Belarus-born officer wounded in 2023, will replace current Mossad chief David Barnea in June 2026. AFP

Putin says there are points he can't agree to in U.S. plan to end the war

Core issues such as possible Ukrainian territorial concessions, future security guarantees remain unresolved; U.S. to resume talks in Miami with Ukraine's lead negotiator; Trump says his envoys left Moscow convinced Putin would like to reach a deal

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin says that some proposals in a U.S. plan to end the war in Ukraine are unacceptable to the Kremlin, indicating that any deal is still some way off despite intense shuttle diplomacy by American envoys.

U.S. President Donald Trump has set in motion the most intense diplomatic push to stop the fighting since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbour nearly four years ago. But the peace efforts have once again run into demands that are hard to reconcile, especially over whether Ukraine must give up land to Russia and how it can be kept safe from any future Russian aggression.

Diplomatic talks: Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with presspersons in Moscow, Russia. REUTERS

Mr. Putin said in comments published on Thursday that his five-hour talks with U.S. envoys this week were "necessary" and "useful," but also "difficult work". Some of the proposals were unacceptable to the Kremlin, he said.

Miami talks

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and son-in-law Jared Kushner, are set to meet with Ukraine's lead negotiator, Rustem Umerov, on Thursday in Miami for further talks, according to a senior Trump administration official who was not authorised to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Putin spoke to the India Today TV channel before his visit to New Delhi on Thursday. Before the full interview was broadcast, Russian state news agencies Tass and RIA Novosti quoted some of Mr. Putin's remarks in it.

Tass quoted Mr. Putin as saying in the interview that at the talks in the Kremlin on Tuesday, the sides "had to go through each point" of the U.S. peace proposal, "which is why it took so long".

Mr. Trump said Wednesday that Mr. Witkoff and Mr. Kushner came away from their marathon session confident that he wants to find an end to the war.

"Their impression was very strongly that he'd like to make a deal," Mr. Trump said.

U.K. sanctions Russia's GRU over Salisbury poisoning

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. government, on Thursday, sanctioned Russia's military intelligence unit, the GRU, in its entirety and summoned the Russian ambassador as an inquiry into the 2018 Salisbury poisoning published its final report. 'The Dawn Sturgess Inquiry', named after a woman who died in Salisbury after exposure to Novichok, a military-grade nerve agent, concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin had authorised the attack against targeting Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia, both of whom were seriously injured, but survived.

Dawn Sturgess

Thursday's announcement also named and sanctioned 11 persons associated with GRU. Sturgess, a 44 year old mother of three, was not an intended target of the attack. The report, authored by former judge Anthony Hughes, concluded that Russian agents had discarded the Novichok-containing perfume bottle after applying it to the handle of the front door at Mr. Skripal's house. Mr. Skripal and his daughter were found unconscious on a park bench on March 4, 2018. The Skripals, along with Sergei's (late) wife, had entered the U.K. in 2010 as part of a prisoner exchange arrangement between London and Moscow. The probe found that Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, later confirmed by the U.K. authorities to be Russian agents, carried out the mission. Both men have denied the charges, as has Russia.

"I have concluded that the operation to assassinate Sergei Skripal must have been authorised at the highest level, by [Russian] President [Vladimir] Putin," said Mr. Hughes, in his report. "Dawn's needless death was a tragedy and will forever be a reminder of Russia's reckless aggression," U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

Hegseth's Signal use could have put U.S. troops at risk: report

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The Pentagon's independent watchdog said U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's use of commercial messaging app Signal to discuss strikes on Yemen could have put American troops at risk, U.S. media reported Wednesday.

The probe by the inspector general's office concluded that Mr. Hegseth did not, however, violate rules on classification because he has the authority to declassify information, the reports said, citing sources familiar with the results of the investigation.

The watchdog's conclusion is nonetheless likely to reignite debate over conduct by Mr. Hegseth, who is already under fire over U.S. strikes on alleged drug boats that experts say amount to extrajudicial killings.

Zohran Mamdani, Louvre make the list of most mispronounced words of 2025

Associated Press
DALLAS

From the election of Zohran Mamdani to the intrigue surrounding the jewel heist at the Louvre, keeping up with this year's news also left some Americans struggling with pronunciations. That's put both the name of New York City's incoming mayor and the famed Paris museum on a list of the most mispronounced words in 2025.

The language-learning company Babbel and closed-captioning company The Captioning Group on Thursday released a list of the words that news anchors, politicians and other public figures in the U.S. struggled with the most this year.

As Mr. Mamdani made his political rise, the democratic socialist's name often was mangled. When he takes office in January, the 34-year-old will become the city's first Muslim mayor, first born in Africa and first of South Asian heritage. Babbel said his name – which should be pronounced zoh-RAHN mam-DAH-nee – was most commonly mispronounced when people swapped the "M" and "N" in his last name.

A lot of these words come from different languages and so we have to adapt to them, says an expert

The theft of France's crown jewels from the Louvre in October had many people mispronouncing the name of the world's most-visited museum. Babbel says the correct pronunciation is LOOV-ruh, with a very soft pronunciation on the "ruh," which can be a challenge for English speakers.

"A lot of these words come from different languages and so we have to adapt to a sound that we've never made before," said Esteban Touma, a linguistic and cultural expert at Babbel.

Asim Munir appointed as Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday approved the appointment of the army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, as Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces for a period of five years.

President Zardari approved the summary submitted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif formally asking him to appoint Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Munir as the first CDF of Pakistan.

Last month, Parliament passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment providing to create the post of CDF with the objective to create unity of command and expedite the decision making in any critical situation.

The CDF replaced the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), the post for which was abolished.

NASHIK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, NASHIK
E-Tender Cell Department
Notice No. 42 (Year 2025-26)

Nashik Municipal Corporation, Nashik E-Tender Cell (PWD Work Department) vide E-Tender Notice No. 42 (Year 2025-26) invites bids for 29 works which will be displayed on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in. from dt. 06/12/2025 to 15/12/2025 up to 3.00 pm. Last date for acceptance of tender will be dt.15/12/2025.

Note - All further necessary notices/clarifications will be published on the online website.

जनसंपर्क/जा.क्र/३७६/२०२५
दि.०३/१२/२०२५

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
E-Tender Cell
Nashik Municipal Corporation

गोदा प्रदुषण टाळा, भविष्य संभाळा.

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) invites online tenders, for the following work:

Tender No.T25P090645 : Design , Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220kV and 33kV GIS transformer /reactor bays along with associated works at 220kV Sub Station Electric Lane & Trauma Centre (AIIMS) on turnkey basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-

https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2025_DTL_282272_1) and www.dtl.gov.in with Unique No. DTL-9796-041225.

Last date for bid submission: **27.01.2026 at 1:30 p.m.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
"e" Procurement Tender Notice
No. 04/2025-26/CE(GVMC)/SE (Projects)/EE(PD-I)/DB/GVMC/Dt: 03.12.2025
Number of works : 01, Value of work : RFP Tender
Tender Opening Dt. 03.12.2025 @ 5.00 PM, Closing Date. 29.12.2025 @ 4.00 PM
Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the EE(PD-I) Cell No. 9848308824
For Commissioner

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
UDHAGAMANDALAM MUNICIPALITY
TENDER NOTICE

Roc.No. 2025/2913/ E2 Dated: 01-12-2025

Bids are invited by the Municipal Commissioner, Udhagamandalam for the work of Construction of Multi level Car Parking at MRC Parking under Urban Infrastructure Development Fund 2025-2026 in Udhagamandalam Municipality.

1. Work Value : **Rs. 3000.00 Lakhs**
2. Earnest Money Deposit Amount : **Rs. 30,00,000/-**
3. Bid document can be downloaded from the Website **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **06-12-2025** at free of cost and the full details of the tenders can be had from the above website.
4. **Common dates & Time**.

1.	Date and time of Pre Bid Meeting	:	**17-12-2025 at 11.00 a.m.**
2.	Last Date and Time for Downloading bid documents	:	**07-01-2026 Upto 3.00 p.m**
3.	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid documents, including online Submission	:	**07-01-2026 Upto 3.00 p.m.**
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid	:	**07-01-2026 at 3.30 p.m.**

5. In the event of specified date for Submission of bids is declared as holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
6. Any Changes / modification in this tender will be published in the above website only.

DIPR/6463/TENDER/2025

Commissioner,
Udhagamandalam Municipality.

Indian Overseas Bank
Good People to Grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF CORPORATE BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION ACTIVITIES
RFP REFERENCE NUMBER: RFP/FID/001/2025-26 DATED 02.12.2025

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net

Indian Overseas Bank
Good People to Grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - PROCUREMENT OF 19 REDHAT ENTERPRISE LINUX FOR VIRTUAL DATACENTERS WITH SATELLITE, PREMIUM - UNDER PAC
BID NO: GEM/2025/B/6952910 DATED 01.12.2025

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/148 -2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs.in Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-66/1225_TKC1 (3rd call) **RFx 7000038313** for Up-gradation of existing HVDC Control & Protection of ±500kV, 1500 MW Chandrapur-Padghe HVDC Bi-pole Link to suitable Control & Protection (3rd call).	Rs. 43974.50 Lakhs / 25,000.00 + GST	23.12.2025 11:00 23.12.2025 15.00 (If Possible)

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-TKC-1)
Tel. No.: (022)-69852718/69852714
Email: 1) C.E. (CPA), 2) S.E.(CPA), 3)E.E.(P&C), 4) E.E. (Group-TKC-1) CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Email id: ceom@mahatransco.in, cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@gmail.com, eepc@mahatransco.in, eetkc1cpa@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in**. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

DROUGHT ENDS

Root notches up the elusive three-figure mark Down Under

REUTERS

Joe Root registered his maiden Ashes century in Australia on the opening day of the Brisbane Test on Thursday. Root brought up his hundred in his 30th innings Down Under. The 34-year-old Root is the second English player after Maurice Leyland in 1936-37 to score a century on the first day of a Test at the Gabba.

HIGH PRAISE

Root played a flawless knock and made it look effortless: Crawley

AFP

England opener Zak Crawley praised Joe Root after the 34-year-old broke his Australia century drought on the first day of the second Ashes Test in Brisbane on Thursday. "He's not trying to make too much of a deal of it, but I'm sure inside he's pretty, pretty delighted. He just played a flawless knock. He made it look effortless".

LEADING THE CHARTS

Starc becomes most successful left-arm pacer in Test history

REUTERS

Australia's Mitchell Starc became the most prolific left-arm paceman in Test history on Thursday, surpassing Pakistan great Wasim Akram. The 35-year-old dismissed England's Harry Brook in Brisbane for his 415th wicket. Akram played 104 Tests for his tally of 414 while Starc went pas him in his 102nd.

THE BEST

Akram better than me: Starc after going past the Pakistan legend

REUTERS & GETTY IMAGES

Wasim (Akram) is still a far better bowler than I am. He's still the pinnacle of left-armers and certainly he's right up there with the best bowlers to ever play the game. It's nice to be spoken of up around that, but I'll just try to keep churning a few out — Mitchell Starc after becoming the leading left-arm pace bowler in Tests.

Root's maiden hundred on Australian soil lifts England

His unbeaten 135 takes England to 325 for nine at stumps; opener Crawley scores 76 while Archer chips in with a career-best score in an unbroken 61-run last-wicket stand; Starc returns a six-for

THE ASHES

Associated Press
BRISBANE

Joe Root posted a long-awaited first Ashes century in Australia to give England the honours on day one of the second Test despite Mitchell Starc's six wickets.

Starc removed Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope to have England reeling at five for two in the third over on Thursday.

That's when Root went to the crease and set about restoring the England innings, and confidence, following the series-opening eight-wicket loss in Perth.

His unbeaten 135 took England to 325 for nine at stumps, with No. 11 Jofra Archer at a career-best 32 batting in an unbroken 61-run last-wicket stand.

Starc returned to dismiss Harry Brook in the middle session.

It was a jolt England could have done without. Brook was caught at slip slashing outside off stump and falling for 31 from 33 balls to end a 54-run fourth-wicket partnership with Root just as the sun was going down.

Standing tall: Root used both the conventional and unconventional shots to end his long wait Down Under. AFP

The revival

Root shared a 117-run stand with Zak Crawley (76) to lift England to 122 for three and partnered Brook in another innings-reviving stand that set England on course for a decent total.

Root's highest score in 15 previous Ashes Tests in Australia was 89.

Playing his 160th Test, Root moved into the 90s for the first time in Australia with a boundary off Brendan Doggett. He hit another boundary next ball to go to 96.

The first two sessions – in the afternoon and the evening – had an element of symmetry with England scoring 98 and Australia taking two wickets in each.

So the night session started with England at 196 for four.

Root and Ben Stokes appeared to be coasting before a brilliant run out by Josh Inglis mixed things up again, with one wicket forcing another.

Caught short

Stokes pushed a ball to the cover region and took off for a single, only for Root to send him back.

Inglis raced in and threw down the stumps from side on. He was out for 19 at 210 for five.

Three balls later, Scott Boland bowled Jamie Smith between bat and pad to make it 211 for six.

Root was on 79 when he was joined by Will Jacks. The pair put on 40 before Jacks played an unnecessarily expansive shot to Starc and was well caught. Starc then dismissed Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse in quick time and England, suddenly, was 264 for nine.

Expectations of Australia batting on the opening day deteriorated, though, as Root and Archer went on the attack.

Debatable decision

The most contentious selection of the series so far was Australia's choice to recall Neser in a five-man pace attack at the expense of spinner Nathan Lyon, who missed out for only the second time on home soil since his debut in 2011.

The selection committee later described it as a one off because of the conditions at the Gabba.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: Zak Crawley c Carey b Neser 76, Ben Duckett c Labuschagne b Starc 0, Ollie Pope b Starc 0, Joe Root (batting) 135, Harry Brook c Smith b Starc 31, Ben Stokes run out 19, Jamie Smith b Boland 0, Will Jacks c Steve Smith b Starc 19, Gus Atkinson c Carey b Starc 4, Brydon Carse c Carey b Starc 0, Jofra Archer (batting) 32; Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-1, w-3): 9; Total (for nine wkts. in 74 overs): 325.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-5, 3-122, 4-176, 5-210, 6-211, 7-251, 8-264, 9-264.

Australia bowling: Starc 19-0-71-6, Neser 14-3-43-1, Boland 19-1-87-1, Doggett 14-1-76-0, Green 8-1-43-0.

Toss: England.

Ruturaj grabs the opportunity with both hands at No. 4

SA IN INDIA

Tarun Shastry
RAIPUR

Opportunities don't present themselves every day, especially in sport. But when they do, you have to be ready to seize them with both hands and make them count. India batter Ruturaj Gaikwad, given the chance to bat at No. 4, did precisely that, scoring his maiden ODI century – a knock that ultimately went in vain as South Africa chased down the 359-run target – in the second game of the three-match series here on Wednesday. It was also the joint-highest successful chase against India in the 50-over format.

Speaking to the media after the match, Ruturaj opened up about his innings, the challenge of adapting to a middle-order role and his partnership with Virat Kohli.

"I was told I'd be batting at No. 4 for this series, honestly, it's a privilege to have that kind of confidence from the management – trusting an opener to bat in the middle-order. Even when I opened, my focus was always to bat deep, till around the 45th over, and then capitalise. So I've always had an idea of how to rotate the strike. It was just about getting through the first 10-15 balls. I've been working very hard, and I wanted to make sure that whenever I got set, I converted it into a big one," Ruturaj said.

On sharing the crease with Kohli, the 28-year-old added, "I've been watching him in practice over the last week, and it's unbelievable – the amount of time he seems to have. You dream of moments like these.

"Even during our partnership, the conversations were simple: look for five to 10 runs an over, find the gaps, rotate strike, and score boundaries when possible. I really enjoyed that partnership".

Making it count: Ruturaj was glad that he could convert the start into a big score. R. RAGU

Setting the tone: Markram gave South Africa's middle and lower-order batters a solid platform. R. RAGU

It was a great collective batting effort: Markram

Tarun Shastry
RAIPUR

It needed something exceptional to chase a mammoth 359-run target, and South Africa's opener Aiden Markram provided exactly that with a stunning hundred in the second ODI here on Wednesday.

Early support from skipper Temba Bavuma, followed by a vital 92-run fourth-wicket stand between Dewald Brevis and Matthew Breetzke, ensured South Africa held its nerve to level the three-match series. Speaking after the win, Markram reflected on his innings, the contributions around him, and the road ahead to the 2027 World Cup.

"Chasing 359 is always tough. You have to take the game on while still being smart and setting things up properly for others. It was a great collective batting effort, and that's how you chase a big number like that," Markram said.

He added that the match had echoes of the first ODI. "Both games felt almost identical – like reliving the first one. We were three down early there, and that changed the result. I felt responsible for that game. So I just wanted to give our big-hitting middle and lower-order a solid platform because they can do real damage. That was my mindset."

Markram was full of praise for Brevis and Breetzke. "They were outstanding. Brevis hits the ball miles and always puts bowlers under pressure. Breetzke has had an incredible start to his career, and the way he handled the situation today was exceptional. That partnership, when the game was on a knife's edge, made a huge difference."

Markram said the win brings confidence but doesn't alter the long-term focus. "Any dressing room is a better place when you're winning. There's still lots to learn heading into Vizag. As much as we want to win, the bigger picture is the 2027 World Cup. We want to keep moving in the right direction. Continuous improvement is the main goal."

Goa and East Bengal enter summit clash

SUPER CUP

Aashin Prasad
MARGAO

FC Goa had an unprecedented start to its AIFF Super Cup semifinal when its skipper Iker Guarrotxena was shown a red card in the tunnel for dissent. But that was the only downside on the night as it overcame Mumbai City FC 2-1 to make the final for a second straight year.

Two quick-fire goals from Brison Fernandes and David Timor roused the home crowd as Goa turned around the early setback.

But it was helped out by some misfortune for Mumbai City as Tiri slipped in the build-up to Brison's opener before goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa spilled Timor's rasping drive into his own net.

Mumbai City pulled one back through Brandon Fernandes but it was denied the equaliser by Hrithik Tiwari, who pulled off excellent saves from Jorge Ortiz and Jorge Pereyra Diaz.

In the second semifinal, East Bengal came out on top in a bruising encounter with Punjab FC, winning 3-1. East Bengal's midfield trio of Saul Crespo, Miguel Ferreira and Mohammed Rashid all had a say in front of goal.

At the stroke of half-time, East Bengal regained the lead when centre-back Kevin Sibille headed in Ferreira's delivery from a corner.

Ferreira then set up Crespo, who unleashed a powerful low strike from outside the area to find the bottom corner and seal the deal.

The results: East Bengal 3 (Mohammed Rashid 12, Kevin Sibille 45+3, Saul Crespo 71) bt Punjab FC 1 (Dani Ramirez 34). FC Goa 2 (Brison Fernandes 21, David Timor 23) bt Mumbai City FC 1 (Brandon Fernandes 59).

India will be tested by an attacking Belgium

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Belgium may have finished second in Pool-D with six points, but its goal-scoring appetite has been anything but modest. Among all group runners-up, Belgium registered the best goal difference (+19), with New Zealand (seven points) being the only other second-placed team to qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH men's junior World Cup.

The Young Red Lions hammered Namibia 12-1, routed Egypt 10-0 while losing to Spain 0-2, underlining its status as one of the dangerous attacking sides in the tournament.

History repeats

When Belgium meets two-time champion India here on Friday – a repeat of the 2016 final, which Belgium lost – it will step in with confidence and, significantly, with nothing to lose. India, meanwhile, will shoulder the weight of a billion expectations as the host, yet it also possesses the quality and depth to dictate terms. India dominated its Pool-B campaign with 29 goals.

The frontline has been in exceptional touch, with Arshdeep Singh, Dilraj Singh and Gurjot Singh leading from the front.

The midfield, anchored by high-calibre performers such as Adrohit Ekka and Ankit Pal, has ensured a steady supply line, while captain Rohit has marshalled a defence that remains unbreached.

Keeping a check

Belgium, however, has its own match-winners whom India must keep in check. Captain Lucas Balthazar, Maximilian Langer and penalty-corner specialist Benjamin Thiery are among the key threats.

On taking on Belgium, India's head coach P. R. Sreejesh said: "We are looking forward to a good contest. Belgium is a strong side and our campaign truly starts now. The big wins in the round-robin stage were needed to set the right momentum and shake off any nerves. I feel the players are ready for the challenge."

On current form, India holds the edge, but Belgium's scoring firepower ensures that the last-eight clash will be anything but predictable.

Practising hard: India will need to get its penalty corners spot on to peg back Belgium. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

> We are looking forward to a good contest. Belgium is a strong side and our campaign truly starts now
>
> **P.R. SREEJESH**
> Head Coach

The results: In Madurai (17th-24th classification):
Austria 2 (Benedikt Meisel 42, Oskar Rathkolb 45-pc) drew with Namibia 2 (John-Paul Britz 40-pc & 43-ps); Austria won 2-0 via shootout.
Bangladesh 13 (Amirul Islam 11, 15, 15, 34 & 53 - all pc, Rakibul Hasan 19, 25 & 47, Md Abdullah 33 & 47, Obidul Joy 40, Md Saju 51 & 60 - both pc) bt Oman 0.
South Korea 6 (Minhyeok Lee 18-ps, 32, 50 & 52 - all pc, JeonSeob Song 23-pc, Seowon Park 26-pc) bt Egypt 3 (Basel Abdelmonem 8-pc & 37-ps, Mohamed Ghanem 60).
China 3 (Yubo Wang 25 & 56 - both pc, Dongjun Ning 60) bt Canada 2 (Robin Thind 8 & 16).

Tons by Ravindra, Latham put the Kiwis in command

Agence France-Presse
CHRISTCHURCH

Centuries by Tom Latham and Rachin Ravindra put New Zealand firmly in control of the first Test against West Indies with a lead of 481 at stumps on day three, here on Thursday. The pair put on 279 for the third wicket before Latham was out for 145. Ravindra followed soon after for 176.

At stumps, Will Young was on 21 and Michael Bracewell on six as New Zealand was 417 for four to go with a 64-run first- innings lead. For West Indies, Kemar Roach, who dismissed both Latham and Williamson, returned figures of two for 61.

The scores: New Zealand 231 & 417/4 in 95 overs (Ravindra 176, Latham 145) vs West Indies 167 in 75.4 overs.

INBRIEF

Narine first to claim 600 wickets in T20 format

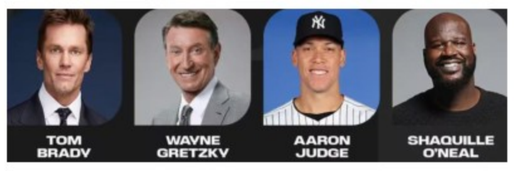
Mystery spinner Sunil Narine etched his name in history after becoming the first bowler to claim 600 wickets in T20 cricket. He achieved the milestone during the World ILT20 game for his franchise Abu Dhabi Knight Riders against Sharjah Warriorz on Wednesday. Following the match, Knight Riders presented Narine with a special edition jersey featuring the number 600 to commemorate his feat. The 37-year-old from Trinidad reached the landmark by claiming the wicket of Tom Abell.

Kalikesh begins his first full term as the NRAI president

Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo began his first full four-year term as president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) after he was elected unopposed during its general body meeting in Mohali on Thursday. Pawan Singh was elected as the new secretary general and Amit Sanghi as the senior vice-president. Kanwar Sultan Singh and Sushma Singh were elected vice-presidents in the 15-member executive committee which has four sportspersons – Gagan Narang, Kunti Malik, Zorawar Singh Sandhu and Elavenil Valarivan.

Lindblad to make debut for Racing Bulls in 2026 season

British driver Arvid Lindblad will debut for Racing Bulls in 2026. The 18-year-old will be the only rookie driver on the F1 grid next year as he takes Isack Hadjar's old Racing Bulls seat along side Liam Lawson. Lindblad moves up to F1 after winning two F2 races this season, continuing a rapid rise since he moved up from karting in 2022. Lindblad, who was born and brought up in England with a Swedish father and an British-Indian mother, tested at Mexico City GP.



Brady, O'Neal to assist in FIFA World Cup draw on Friday

Sports legends from outside of football, including NFL great Tom Brady, NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal, ice hockey's Wayne Gretzky and baseball star Aaron Judge, will assist with the FIFA World Cup 2026 draw on Friday in Washington, D.C. Rio Ferdinand, a former Manchester United captain with 81 England caps, will conduct the draw. The draw will sort the 48 teams into 12 groups of four. The top two from each group and the eight best third-place teams will make the knock-out stage.

Alexander-Arnold suffers injury on his left leg

Trent Alexander-Arnold has injured his left leg days before Real Madrid faces Manchester City in the Champions League next week. The England right-back hurt an upper left leg muscle.

William FC defeats Bangalore Gunners

William FC defeated Bangalore Gunners FC 1-0 in the BDFA 'B' division football league in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The results: Pillanna Garden bt Bangalore Warriors 4-1; William bt Bangalore Gunners 1-0; Shooterz bt KSP 4-0.

LIVE TELECAST

The Ashes: 2nd Test, day 2, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Hockey: Junior World Cup, SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 12.30, 3, 5.30 & India vs Belgium, 8 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday).

New Zealand vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Tamil Nadu finally gets its act together with a facile victory against Tripura

An all-round effort from Badoni highlights Delhi's 45-run win over Karnataka; Nagarkoti's unbeaten knock takes Rajasthan past Saurashtra

SMAT

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
AHMEDABAD

Stellar contribution: Badoni backed up his half-century with four wickets in Delhi's win. VIJAY SONEJI

Sai Kishore's maiden T20 fifty (87 n.o., 39b, 3x4, 8x6) and captain Jagadeesan's 49-ball 83 (6x4, 4x6) helped Tamil Nadu post 204 for five and secure a 61-run win against Tripura in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Elite Group-D fifth round here on Thursday.

After Tamil Nadu was reduced to 26 for four in the sixth over, the pair added 119 off 67 for the fifth wicket. Sai Kishore hit three sixes off pacer Indrajit Debnath in the final over – over deep backward square (pull), long-on, and deep extra-cover. Jagadeesan went 6-4-6-4 against off-spinner Viki Saha – down the track over long-on, through cover, slog-swept to deep midwicket, and swept to deep backward square-leg.

Powered by Priyansh Arya (62, 33b, 2x4, 6x6), Ayush Badoni (53, 35b, 4x4, 2x6), skipper Nitish Rana (46 n.o., 28b, 2x4, 4x6), and Tejasvi Dahiya (53 n.o., 19b, 3x4, 5x6), Delhi piled on 232 for three and beat Karnataka by 45 runs. Priyansh hit all his sixes in the 'V' down the ground, four of them coming off leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal.

Despite valiant efforts from Devdutt Padikkal (62, 38b, 8x4, 2x6) and R. Smaran (72, 38b, 3x4, 6x6), the ask was always one step ahead for Karnataka.

Badoni returned a career-best four for 12 with his off-spin. He picked up three in the 19th over, as Karnataka's batters could do little more than slog. Smaran edged his attempted heave to short third man, while Pravin Dubey and Shreyas Gopal holed out in the deep.

After claiming two for 22, Rajasthan pacer Kamlesh Nagarkoti turned finisher against Saurashtra. Chasing a modest 146, he remained unbeaten on 37 (32b, 1x4, 3x6) as Rajasthan got home by two wickets.

With 17 needed off the last over, he sliced the first ball (after a wide) over deep point for a six off leg-spinner Yuvraj Chudasama, and with six needed off two, he clobbered the winning six just over the deep extra-cover fielder.

Pacer Ashok Sharma was adjudged the Player-of-The-Match for his all-round effort – four for 20, and an unbeaten 15 off seven with two vital sixes.

Shahrukh dropped from TN squad, sent home along with Pradosh and Andre

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
AHMEDABAD

Shahrukh Khan.
FILE PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY

Pace-bowling all-rounder Sunny Sandhu and spin-bowling all-rounder Mohamed Ali were drafted into the squad on Tuesday

After a disastrous start, Tamil Nadu – a side considered a powerhouse in white-ball cricket – is theoretically out of the race for a berth in the second phase of the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

The Tamil Nadu team, which had won won back-to-back titles in 2020-21 and 2021-22, is facing elimination in the group stage for the fourth year running.

The State senior selection committee has been forced to make a raft of changes.

Pace-bowling all-rounder Sunny Sandhu and spin-bowling all-rounder Mohamed Ali, fresh off their exploits in Tamil Nadu's BCCI under-23 State-A one-day trophy triumph a day earlier, were drafted into the squad on Tuesday, Subsequently, on Thursday, Shahrukh Khan was dropped from the team and sent home following a poor run so far.

Batters Pradosh Ranjan Paul and Andre Siddarth, neither of whom featured in a single match, were also asked to return home.

The decision raises the question of why they were selected in the first place.

It was only a few days before the tournament began that pace-bowling all-rounder R. Rajkumar was added to the squad as an afterthought.

The constant rejigging reflects the turbulence in the Tamil Nadu dugout.

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — THURSDAY'S SCORES

Elite: Group A (Lucknow):
Kerala 178/5 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 46, Vishnu Vinod 43 n.o., Mohammed Azharuddeen 32, Sharafuddeen 32) bt Mumbai 163 in 19.4 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 32, Sarfaraz Khan 52, Suryakumar Yadav 32, K.M. Asif 5/24).
Assam 175/7 in 20 overs (Abdul Ajij Kuraishi 57, Nihar Deka 52, Yash Thakur 3/36) bt Vidarbha 117 in 17.5 overs (Dhruv Shorey 36, Mukhtar Hussain 3/36, Akash Sengupta 3/12).
Chhattisgarh 158/6 in 20 overs (Amandeep Khare 44, Shashank Singh 46) lost to Andhra 159/2 in 18.5 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 50, Shaik Rasheed 59 n.o.).
Odisha 169/5 in 20 overs (Aashirwad Swain 48, Soumya Lenka 75 n.o.) bt Railways 168 in 20 overs (Suraj Ahuja 39, Akshat Pandey 60, Soumya Lenka 3/50).
Group B (Kolkata): Uttar Pradesh 212/7 in 20 overs (Madhav Kaushik 67, Sameer Rizvi 70, Sandeep Sharma 4/26) bt Chandigarh 172/8 in 20 overs (Manan Vohra 61, Nikhil Thakur 32, Amrit Lal Lubana 30 n.o., Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3/23).
Jammu & Kashmir 112 in 19.3 overs (Shubham Khajuria 35, C.V. Milind 3/31, Nitin Sai Yadav 3/17) lost to Hyderabad 115/6 in 15.1 overs (Pragnay Reddy 31 n.o., Tanay Thyagarajann 50).
Bihar 180/7 in 20 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 46, Sakibul Gani 60, Akash Raj 40, Deepraj Gaonkar 4/38) lost to Goa 184/5 in 19.5 overs (Kashyap Bakle 64, Suyash Prabhudesai 79, Suraj Kashyap 3/24); Madhya Pradesh 153/8 in 20 overs (Mohd. Arshad Khan 30) bt Maharashtra 132/8 in 20 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 31, Rahul Tripathi 37, Tripuresh Singh 3/23).
Group C (Hyderabad):
Himachal Pradesh 176/8 in 20 overs (Ekant Sen 44, Pukhraj Mann 43, Mridul Surroch 31 n.o., Anshul Kamboj 3/44, Anuj Thakral 3/31) lost to Haryana 177/3 in 18 overs (Arsh Ranga 39, Ankit Kumar 44, Yashvardhan Dalal 76 n.o.).
Gujarat 73 in 14.1 overs (Raj Limbani 3/5) lost to Baroda 74/2 in 6.4 overs (Sashwat Rawat 30 n.o.); Services 165 in 18.2 overs (Mohit Ahlawat 38, Vineet Dhankhar 32, Nakul Sharma 32, Mohammed Shami 4/13, Akash Deep 3/27) lost to Bengal 167/3 in 15.1 (Abishek Porel 56 n.o., Abhimanyu Easwaran 58, Yuvraj Keswani 36 n.o.).
Punjab 192/5 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 34, Naman Dhir 37, Sanvir Singh 38, Salil Arora 44 n.o., Ramandeep Singh 34 n.o.) bt Pondicherry 138 in 18.4 overs (Sidak Singh 61, Abhishek Sharma 3/23, Ayush Goyal 3/25).
Group D (Ahmedabad):
Saurashtra 145 in 19.3 overs (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 69, Ashok Sharma 4/20) lost to Rajasthan 146/8 in 19.5 overs (Kamlesh Nagarkoti 37 n.o., Parth Bhut 3/9).
Uttarakhand 150/7 in 20 overs (Kunal Chandela 55, Avneesh Sudha 32, Anukul Roy 3/20) lost to Jharkhand 152/3 in 16.1 overs (Utkarsh Singh 41, Kumar Kushagra 31, Virat Singh 43 n.o.).
Delhi 232/3 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 62, Ayush Badoni 53, Nitish Rana 46 n.o., Tejasvi Dahiya 53 n.o.) bt Karnataka 187 in 19.3 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 62, R. Smaran 72, Ayush Badoni 4/12).
Tamil Nadu 204/5 in 20 overs (N. Jagadeesan 83, Sai Kishore 87 n.o.) bt Tripura 143 in 18.5 overs (Vijay Shankar 39, Manisankar Murasingh 33).
Plate (Pune): Nagaland 220/6 in 20 overs (Joshua Ozukum 45, Dega Nischal 108) bt Manipur 188 in 18.1 overs (Pheiroijam Jotin 34, Langlonyamba Meitan 30, Kangabam Priyojit 66, Rongsen Jonathan 3/39); Arunachal Pradesh 90/9 in 20 overs (Techi Neri 33) lost to Sikkim 93/1 in 9.3 overs (Amit Rajera 42 n.o.).
Meghalaya 150/8 in 20 overs (T.C. Vanlalremruata 3/32, B. Lalnunfela 4/25) lost to Mizoram 151/2 in 17.5 overs (Jehu Anderson 82 n.o., Joseph Lalthankhuma 38 n.o.).

Arsenal extends lead, Chelsea stumbles; Real Madrid cruises

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Heady stuff: Merino nods home Arsenal's opener. REUTERS

Arsenal edged out Brentford 2-0 to restore its five-point lead at the top of the Premier League on Wednesday as Chelsea slumped to a 3-1 defeat at struggling Leeds.

Liverpool needed a late Nordi Mukiele own-goal to avoid another damaging defeat at home in a 1-1 draw with Sunderland, while Aston Villa climbed up to third after a 4-3 victory at Brighton.

Arsenal failed to hit top form at the Emirates Stadium but did enough to take another step towards a first league title in 22 years thanks to goals from Mikel Merino and Bukayo Saka.

Leeds boss Daniel Farke's job was reportedly on the line prior to Chelsea's visit to Elland Road after four consecutive defeats.

But Farke's players produced a huge performance for their boss to climb out of the relegation zone.

A late equaliser did little to lift the gloom around Anfield as Liverpool sits eighth.

Villa produced a stunning fightback to secure an eighth win in nine league games.

Kylian Mbappe scored twice and set up another as Real Madrid beat Athletic Bilbao 3-0 to cut Barcelona's LaLiga lead back down to one point on Wednesday.

Xabi Alonso's side curtailed a run of three consecutive league draws away from home with one of its best displays of the season at Athletic's San Mames.

The results:
Premier League: Arsenal 2 (Merino 11, Saka 90+1) bt Brentford 0; Brighton 3 (Van Hecke 9, 83, Torres 29-og) lost to Aston Villa 4 (Watkins 37, 45+7, Onana 60, Malen 78).

Burnley 0 lost to Crystal Palace 1 (Munoz 44); Leeds 3 (Bijol 6, Tanaka 43, Calvert-Lewin 72) bt Chelsea 1 (Neto 50).

Liverpool 1 (Mukiele 81-og) drew with Sunderland 1 (Talbi 67); Wolves 0 lost to Nottingham Forest 1 (Jesus 72).

LaLiga: Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Real Madrid 3 (Mbappe 7, 59, Camavinga 42).

All ears: Arjun listens in rapt attention as Anand makes a point. JERUSALEM MASTERS

Arjun beats Anand to win Jerusalem Masters

CHESS

Press Trust of India
JERUSALEM

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi defeated five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand in an all-Indian final to clinch Jerusalem Masters title on Wednesday.

After the duo drew the opening rapid games, Arjun struck in the first Blitz tie-break match by winning with white pieces. The 22-year-old also held a winning position in the second blitz encounter before settling for a draw, which was enough for him to win the fixture 2.5-1.5 and title. Arjun pocketed $55,000 while Anand won $35,000.

"It wasn't easy. There were a lot of challenges. My quality wasn't the best. I'm just glad I managed to make it through," said Arjun. "In the first game against Anand sir we both missed our chances. But in blitz, I think I played quite well," he added.

Arjun had defeated Russian GM Peter Svidler in his last four stage fixture while Anand outplayed reigning World Blitz champion Ian Nepomniachtchi in the semifinal.

The Jerusalem Masters was a closed invitational 12-player round-robin tournament in which the top four advanced to the playoffs.

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306,
Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

TNPL Unit-II Invites Tender for Sale of Board Economiser Fly Ash from TNPL Unit - II on Four Months Rate Contract / "as is where is" basis.

Tender No.	Description	Due date
TNPL/DIS/U2/82025033	Board Economiser Flyh Ash	19.12.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/6487/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Town Municipal Council, Hosadurga, Chitradurga District.

ಫೋನ್ ನಂ. 08199-230221 E- ail:tmchosadurga@yahoo.com
Webist: hosadurgatown.gov.in

Sl No: TS/C.R-07/2025-26/08 Date 01.12.2025

e-Procurement Tender Notification

(Tender invited subject to Standard Tender Document Rules)

On the behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Item wise tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 2016 from eligible registered Contractor for below mentioned works sanctioned under Amrut 2.0 grant of Hosadurga TMC. Tenders can be downloaded from KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) filled and uploaded up to 5.00 PM on 18.12.2025. For further information visit the below mentioned websites www.hosadurgatown.mrc.gov.in and https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in and is displayed on the Notice Board of the Office and further information can be obtained from the technical section during office hours. **Indent No. DEVELOPMENT OF C.M. K.H.B. COLONY PARK AT HOSADURGA TOWN DMA/2025-26/OW /WORK_INDENT49992/CALL-2 Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rupees in Lakhs) 58.45 EMD (in Rupees):- 1,17,000/- Period:- 06 Months**

Sd/ Administrator, TMC, Hosadurga.

Sd/-Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Hosadurga

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/507/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division
2nd Floor, BMP Complex, Dhanavantri Road, Bengaluru-560009.

No. EE/GNR/TEND/E-PROC/007/2025-26 Date: 04-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Invitation for Tender (IFT) (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BCCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BCCC invites bids on Item Rate basis from eligible contractors registered in BCCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy services for preparation of DPR for the work of Improvements to traffic junctions along Arterial and Sub Arterial roads in Gandhinagar Division to reduce congestion improve Air Flow and Greenery.
	Project Cost : **Rs. 1320.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1,30,000/-.** Stipulated period of completion : **28 days.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** RFP documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 08.12.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **13.12.2025 at 4.00 pm. (3)** Last date for submission of completed documents: **15.12.2025 before 4.30 pm. (4)** Date of opening of Technical proposal : **17.12.2025 at 12.30 pm. (5)** Date of opening of Financial proposal: **After the approval of technical proposal.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Gandhinagar Division, BCCC

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite Tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for below mentioned works.

Sl.No.	Name of the Works
1	Construction of additional works to cold storage units at Koda and Rattihalli, Hirekerur Taluk and Shiggaon Taluk of Haveri District, Andargi Village, Banavasi Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, Kotnoor Village, Kalburgi Taluk & District, Vaddarahatti Village, Gangavathi Taluk, Koppal District, Dharwad Taluk and District, Savadatti Taluk, Belagavi District, Bagalkot Taluk and District for Agricultural Department under Package-I. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_Indent 661 & IFT No:109/2025-26 Date: 01.12.2025. **Amount Put to Tender:** Rs.10,11,36,430/-
2	Construction of additional works to cold storage units at Cheluvathimahalli Village, Chikkaballapura taluk & district, Lingadahalli Village, Tarikere taluk, Chikkamagaluru district, Avargere village, Davanagere taluk & district and Devarahalli Village, Channagiri taluk, Davanagere district for Agricultural Department under Package-II. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26 /BD/work_Indent 662 & IFT No: 110/2025-26 Date: 01.12.2025. **Amount Put to Tender:** Rs.4,45,30,955/-

Last date for submission of Bids: 01.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Tel: 080-22273511 / 080-22100077 Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4198/CCL/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 22/2025-26/2563-67 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03-12-2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4ರನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054-ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ- ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಅಪೆಂಡಿಕ್ಸ್-ಇ ಅಡಿಯ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 29035), ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054 – ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನವೀಕರಣ ಅಡಿಯ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 29051) ಹಾಗೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಅಡಿಯ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 29109) ಒಟ್ಟು 3 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ 1ನೇ ಕರೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 167.79 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 390.40 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-12-2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite Tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for below mentioned works.

Sl.No.	Name of the Works
1	Proposed Construction of LIG & MIG 3BHK Houses at Suryanagar Phase-2 Extension Rajapura, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/ BD/work_Indent 663 & IFT No:111/2025-26 Date: 04.12.2025 **Amount Put to Tender:** Rs.19,28,45,458/-
2	Construction of 38 LIG & 6 MIG Houses at KHB Rayasandra Layout, Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru South District. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_Indent 664 & IFT No:112/ 2025-26 Date: 03.12.2025 **Amount Put to Tender:** Rs.25,45,21,276/-

Last date for submission of Bids: 12.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Tel: 080-22273511 / 080-22100077 Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4219/CCL/2025-26

TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Chennai – 600032

Tender Notice No: T1/TNPCB/F.15722/TNSHORE-FTB/2025 Dated: 30.10.2025

E-tender (2-cover system) through TN etenders' website are invited for **"Supply, Installation, Commencement and maintenance of Floating Trash Boom Barrier on the Adyar River, Chennai, Tamil Nadu"**

E-tender is called for an agency to "Supply, Install, Commence and maintain of the Floating Trash Boom Barrier on the Adyar River, Chennai, Tamil Nadu" as per the specified terms and conditions.

The tender documents can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in** and www.tnpcb.gov.in on or after **05.12.2025.** The last date for the receipt of the tender is **04.01.2026.**

Chairperson,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai - 32.

DIPR/6482/TENDER/2025

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಬಡಾವಣೆ, 'ಎ' ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಪಿ.ಬಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-06

ನಂ:ದಾಹನಪ್ರಾ:ತಾಶಾ:ಎಇಇ:ಕಸಾಸಂಪೋ:ಟೆಂಪ್ರ:10:2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04-12-2025.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್)

ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಮುಂಗಡ ಹಣ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.) ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆ	ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ)
1	DHUDA/ 2025-26/ MT/WORK_ INDENT55	ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ದೊಡ್ಡಬಾತಿ ಕೆರೆಯನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	933.00	7,11,03,000/-	10,66,000/-	1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (ಸಿವಿಲ್)	ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ -4	12 ತಿಂಗಳು

Last date & time for tender queries /clarifications:- As Per KPP Portal
Pre Bid Meeting- As Per KPP Portal Last date and time for receipt of tender- As Per KPP Portal
Date & time for opening of (Technical bids)- As Per KPP Portal
Note: The rates quoted, whether specified or not, in the tender as per sanctioned estimate are inclusive of all lead and lifts and all other incidental charges to complete the work successfully.
(1) ಯಾವ ಕಾರಣವನ್ನು ಸಹ ನೀಡದೇ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. (2) ಅಪೂರ್ಣ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (3) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನೇಮಿಸುವ ಮೂರನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ತಪಾಸಣಾ ತಂಡದವರಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ನಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಲು ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/532/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26 ಸಹಿ/- **ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ದಾ-ಹ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.**

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ / OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା)

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement E-Mail/ E-despatch

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/43-2025-26/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 43 - 2025-26/ BPR	Bridge Work under SETU BANDHANA YOJANA (SBY)	01 No	Rs. 466.51 Lakhs	"A" Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col.No.5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender/ 43-2025-26/BPR	06.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	20.12.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur

O-1641: OIPR-25071/11/0162/2526

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ / OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା)

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement E-Mail/ E-despatch

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/52-2025-26/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 52 - 2025-26/ BPR	Road Works under MMSY-CMRL	01 No	Rs.242.21 Lakhs	"B" Class & "A" Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col.No.5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender / 52-2025-26/BPR	05.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	19.12.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur

O-1642: OIPR-25071/11/0164/2526

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Uma Maheswari Rajagopal Residing at # 274, Orange Block, DSR Rainbow Heights, 24th Main HSR layout, Bangalore 560102, I Have Changed my Name from Uma Maheswari R to Uma Maheswari Rajagopal.

I, ABDULLAH Abdul Rahim, S/o S Abdul Raheem, r/at No.7, 3rd Floor, 14th Cross, Kanaka Nagar, RT Nagar, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name as Abdullah Abdul Raheem vide affidavit dtd 12.11.2025 sworn before Notary Vijayalakshmi K, Bluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE (SR. DIVISION): PUNGANUR
I.A.No. 150/2024
O.S. NO.48/2018

Plaintiff: Coprporation Bank merged with Union Bank of India, Punganur Br., Rep by its Br.Manager
Defendants: D-1 C.R.Bharath S/o C.R.Vishalakshi, aged about 35 years, Hindu, business and r/at 2B-1st stage, Postal Colony, Visweswara Nagar, Mysore Town, Mysore District -570028.

SUIT SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO.1 & NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NO.1

Take notice that plaintiff has filed the above suit against you for recovery of amount. The suit is posted on 11.12.2025 for your appearance. If you fail to attend the Court 11.12.2025 by 10-30 a.m. either in person or through advocate, the matter will be decided in your absence.

(By order of the Court)
P.Vijayabhaskar, B.Com., LL.B, Advocate, Gokul Street, Punganur Cell: 9440862812, 8142033567

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE ADDL. RENT CONTROL COURT, KOLLAM
RCP No. 44/ 2024

Petitioner : M/s. Unitide Medical Pvt. Ltd., a company registered and incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 2013, with its CIN No.U85110KL2002PTC015806 having its registered office in the Unitide Buildings, Kadappakkada, Vadakkevila Village, Kadappakkada P.O., Kollam - 691008. represented by its Managing Director, Dr. G.A. George, aged 78 years, S/o. The Late M.C. George, Orthopaedic Surgeon by profession, residing at Geo Bhavan, House No. 7, Pooram Nagar, Vadakkum - bhagam Cherry, Kollam East Village, Kollam-691001

Respondents: 1. M/s.Think and Learn Pvt. Ltd., a company registered and incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 2013 having its registered office at IBC, Knowledge Park, 4/1, 2nd Floor, Tower D, Banner ghatta Main Road, Bangaluru - 560029 the State of Karnataka represented by its authorized representative G.M. Bipin Thomas 2. G.M. Bipin Thomas, aged 36 years, S/o. Thomas Joseph, Senior Finance Executive, Panthalanickal, Thankamony Village, Thankamony Part, Idukki Taluk, Idukki District, Kerala -685515

Addl. Respondent : Sri. Pankaj Sreevasthava, Insolvency resolution committee, Byjus (Think and Learn Pvt. Ltd.), No. 58, 3rd Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560024 Land line - 080 - 23902344

Whereas the petitioner has filed O.P. No. 44/2024 before the Addl. Rent Control Court, Kollam for evicting the 1st respondent from the petition schedule building on the grounds of arrears of rent & non user of the building since 28-03-2024. The summons issued from the Court returned unserved. The case stands posted to 15.12.2025 at 11 am and if ever any of the respondents is having any objection in allowing the O.P. he may appear either in person or through pleader before the Hon'ble court on the said date and time or else the O.P. will be allowed finding that there is no objection in allowing the O.P.

Kollam
06-11-2025

By Order, Sd/-
K. Raghu Varma,
Counsel for the petitioner

EXHIBITION / EVENTS FAIR

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தமிழ்ப் புத்தகத் திருவிழா 2025 பெங்களூரு

TAMIL BOOK FESTIVAL

Time: 10am to 8pm

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5th - 14th December-2025

The Institution of Engineers
#3, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Opp. Indian Express, Bengaluru

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE /TO/2660/2025-26 Dt: 03.12.2025, (2nd Call) (Resrved for CAT-II(A))	Rs.68,28,759/- / Rs.68,300/-	12-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	15-12-2025 after 4.00 p.m.
2.	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE/ TO/2662/2025-26 Dt: 03.12.2025, (2nd Call)	Rs.60,67,140/- / Rs.1,21,400/-	12-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	15-12-2025 after 4.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1).

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
3.	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW2/ TO/PB/4270/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025, (2nd Call) (Resrved for SC Category)	Rs.58,61,249/- / Rs.58,650/-	11-12-2025 upto 5.00 p.m.	12-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-2).

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
4.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025	Rs.47,16,241/- / Rs.94,400/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
5.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025	Rs.58,54,451/- / Rs.1,17,100/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
6.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025 (Resrved for SC Category)	Rs.62,15,577/- / Rs.62,200/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
7.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025	Rs.52,11,616/- / Rs.1,04,300/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
8.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025 (Resrved for SC Category)	Rs.20,80,508/- / Rs.25,000/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
9.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025	Rs.22,88,796/- / Rs.50,000/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
10.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025	Rs.12,65,858/- / Rs.31,700/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
11.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025 (Resrved for ST Category)	Rs.15,75,474/- / Rs.19,700/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
12.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025	Rs.51,57,524/- / Rs.1,03,200/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
13.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025 (Resrved for CAT-II(A))	Rs.55,47,809/- / Rs.55,500/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.
14.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4084/2025-26 Dt: 04.12.2025	Rs.51,69,780/- / Rs.1,03,400/-	16-12-2025 upto 4.00 p.m.	17-12-2025 after 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West)-2.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4208/25-26

Town municipal council Kurugodu. kurugodu Bellari (Dist)

E-mail : KA.kurugodu.tmc@gmail.com Web Site: www.kurugodutown.mrc.gov.in

No;TMCK/15th Fiance /kurugodu Date: 03.12.2025

E-Tender notification

The Chief officer TMC Kurugodu on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites Tenders in two cover bid under e-tendering system in KPPP website: http://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in As per Karnataka Transparency in public Procurement Act-1999 rule 2000 from authorised contractor.

SLNo	Name Of Work	Category	Estimated Value
01	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT38251	General	66.18L

Last date for recept of tender: 17.12.2025 4.30pm and. Date of tender opening: 18.12.2025 10.30.Am.The further details of the tender can be obtained from this office during office hours or by logging on to the office E-Mail http://www.kurugodutown.mrc.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer
TMC, Kurugodu

DIPR/Ballari/740/KSMCA/2025-26

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (TIDCO)

No.19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008
Phone-+91-044-28554479,28554480
E-mail: hr@tidco.com | Website: https://tidco.com/ https://careers.tidco.com

Recruitment Notification

Notification No.TIDCO/HR/Recruitment/2025-5 **Dated: 05.12.2025**

Applications are invited for the following posts only through online mode from 06.12.2025 at 10.00 am to 20.12.2025 upto 5.00 pm from the eligible candidates who wish to join the services in Tamilnadu Research Parks Foundation, Coimbatore & Madurai, an initiative of TIDCO.

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of vacancy	Compensation	Location	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Research Advisor	One (1)	Net CTC is Rs.60,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- per month (Negotiable - Depending on experience and qualification. TDS and other statutory deductions, as applicable)	Madurai	On Contract basis
2.	Admin/ Accounts Manager	One (1)	Net CTC is Rs.75,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- per month (Negotiable - DPepending on experience and qualification. TDS and other statutory deductions, as applicable)	Coimbatore	On Contract basis

For the detailed notification, qualification, experience, selection process, online application and other details, please visit our official website **https://tidco.com / https://careers.tidco.com.**

MANAGING DIRECTOR
TIDCO

DIPR/1432/Display/2025

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ

ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ದೂ: 080-27833730 E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com | Website: www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ:ಹೆ.ನ.ಸ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ನೋ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/17/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 21 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000ರಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1 & 2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.12.2025 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.12.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.2.38 ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.35.63 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.**

DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33173, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33174,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33180, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33177,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33181, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33176,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33179, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33182,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33183, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33185,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33186, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33197,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33203, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33195,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33194, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33201,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33196, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33200,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33198, DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33172,
DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33187.

ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಹರೀಶ್, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
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ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ ಜಯರಾಮ್, ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.
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Gayatri and Treesa's rhythm back after Lucknow triumph

Pairing up after recovering from injuries, the two, after defending the Syed Modi International title, are focused on regaining their place in the top echelons of women's doubles

In sync: The win in Lucknow showcased Treesa and Gayatri's improved clarity in rotations. SANDEEP SAXENA

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The title defence at the recent Syed Modi International has done more than just place another trophy on Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly's shelf. It has restored the rhythm the duo had been searching for through a fragmented season.

The two-time All England semifinalists opened 2025 in promising fashion, reaching the All England quarterfinals and then the Swiss Open semifinals. But by June, a persistent shoulder issue caught up with both, forcing them to step off the circuit after the Macau Open.

Gayatri and Treesa returned in style winning in just their second event at Lucknow, something which has given the young pair the clarity and confidence as they prepare for a physically demanding 2026, when their first aim will be to regain their place in the top echelons of women's doubles.

Ranked World No. 9 for 13 weeks earlier this year, they see 2026 as the season to reclaim that zone.

"I think our biggest goals are to break into the top bracket of world doubles, win more world titles, perform well at World championships. And of course, work towards Olympic qualification as well," Gayatri said. "And yeah, I think improving consistency is a big thing for us right now."

While Gayatri was rebuilding, Treesa, who recovered in two months, kept herself match-ready through mixed doubles, partnering Hariharan Amsakarunan and winning the Turkiye International Challenge in October.

The win in Lucknow showcased Gayatri and Treesa's improved clarity in rotations. "On court, we've developed good understanding of each other's strengths," Gayatri said. "I know when Treesa is taking charge and she knows when I'm going to move in. We're comfortable discussing anything, which helps us stay united through tough phases."

While the title defence signals readiness, the 21-year-olds know well that building deeper consistency at the highest level will be the key.

"It's not possible for any athlete to win continuously for five tournaments. But we try, if we're winning one tournament, then at least quarters in the next, just to keep the momentum going," said Gayatri.

Germany coaches view shared leadership not as a complication but as a strength

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Shared leadership remains a rather uncommon concept in sport. In field hockey, it appears most visibly through dual captains at the junior level – a model used by Australia, Germany, Chile, and Switzerland. India follows a similar philosophy but uses a 'leadership group' of three or four senior players, including the captain, who collectively make on-field decisions.

At the international level, though, having two head coaches is rare. Most teams follow the traditional format: one head coach supported by an assistant, with major decisions resting firmly with the head coach.

Germany challenged the norm at the 2021 FIH junior men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar – it had a head coach Rein Van Eijk in the previous edition ('23) – when it appointed Johannes Schmitz and Valentin Altenburg as co-coaches.

Long association: Stenzel and Schmitz have known each other for 12 years. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The model worked, with Germany reaching the final before losing to Argentina. Four years on, Schmitz returns in another dual arrangement, this time with Mirko Stenzel, and the pair views shared leadership not as a complication but as a strength.

"For us, it's a pleasure to work with each other because we have known each other for a long time, and we have had so many journeys together," Schmitz told *The Hindu*. "It's a big friendship and a privilege to work with this team."

In coaching culture

Stenzel said the model is ingrained in Germany's coaching culture. "Shared leadership has been part of our philosophy for a long time. It helps us spread responsibilities and cover a wider leadership bandwidth. But the key is trust – without knowing each other well, it won't work."

The two have known each other for 12 years, but their stint as assistant coaches with the German women's team solidified their partnership. So, when the offer to lead the junior men's World Cup squad came earlier this year, they did not hesitate.

Stenzel added that their roles now differ from the 2021 setup. "Back then, Schmitz led on the pitch and Valentin handled the bigger picture. Now, we simply look at each other and know who does what. We divide tasks naturally."

Ahead of the quarterfinals against France, Stenzel acknowledged the rivalry and challenge but expressed confidence. Germany, a seven-time champion, has been training intensely in Chennai's tough conditions, keeping its pursuit of an eighth title alive.

Won't ask Piastri to move over if needed in the title decider: Norris

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press
ABU DHABI

Lando Norris said he will not ask McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to give up a place to favour him in the three-way Formula One title fight with Max Verstappen at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Norris has a 12-point lead over Verstappen going into Sunday's race, with Piastri four points further back.

If Verstappen is far ahead of both McLarens, it's possible Piastri could be in a situation where he can't take the title himself but can aid Norris's title bid.

If Verstappen wins on Sunday, a top-three finish would be enough for Norris. "Honestly, I mean I would love it but I don't think I would ask it because it's up to Oscar if he would allow it. I don't think it's necessarily down to me," said Norris on Thursday.

Norris added he believed he would help out Piastri if the roles were reversed but said they hadn't discussed any such situations within the team.

McLaren teammates Norris and Piastri. REUTERS

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